

New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

January 2022

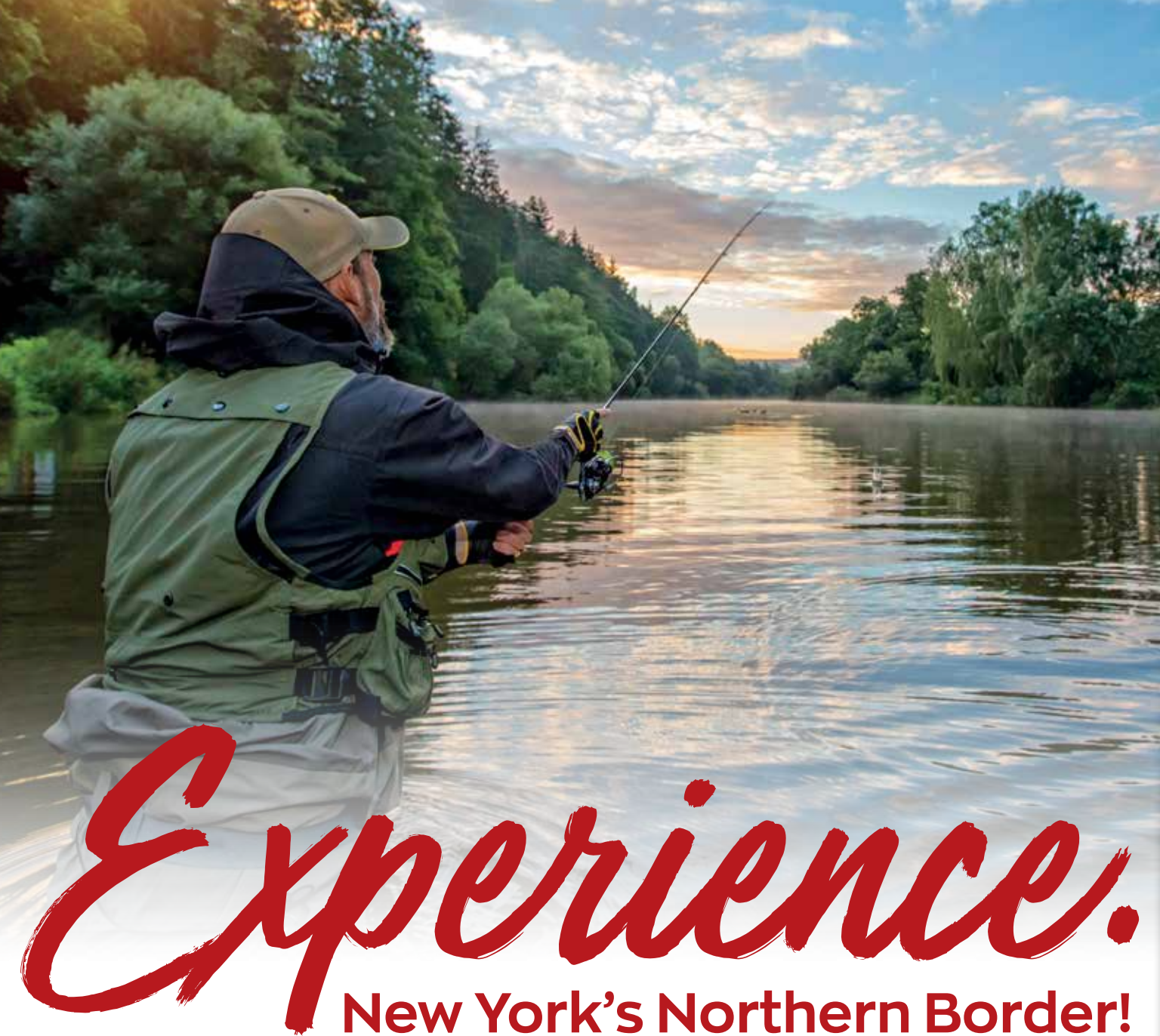


Garden State
Walleye
page 6



A Summary of Regulations and
Freshwater Fisheries Management Information
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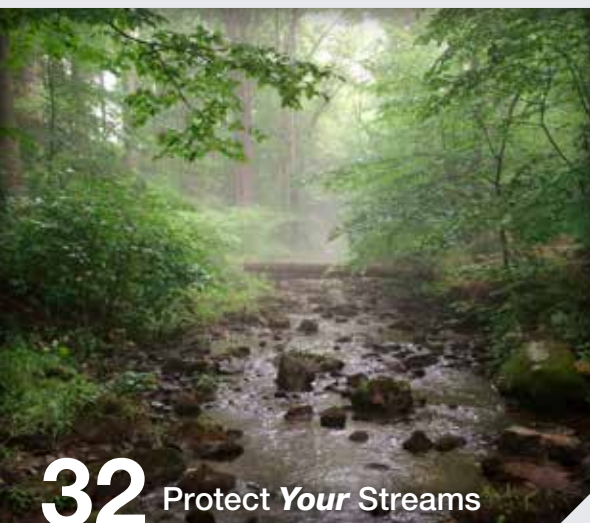
Life Undiscovered
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY



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License Information & Fees 2022

Licenses and fishing-related permits are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.

LICENSES

Resident Fishing	
Ages 16–64 yrs.	\$22.50
(Buddy License* \$11.75)	
Senior Resident Fishing	
Ages 65–69 yrs.	\$12.50
70 & over	Free
Resident Trout Stamp	
Ages 16–69 yrs.	\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	
Age 16 yrs. and older.....	\$34
(Buddy License* \$17.50)	
Non-resident Trout Stamp	\$20
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing.....	\$9
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing.....	\$19.50
All-Around Sportsman	
(includes resident fishing, firearm hunting	
and bow/arrow hunting licenses)	\$72.25
(Buddy License* \$62.50)	

PERMITS

WMA Boat Ramp Permit	\$15
Available online or through license agents	
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking,	
Baitfish Collecting, Fish Tagging Permits	\$2
Scientific Collecting Permits.....	\$22
Available through the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries	
908-236-2118	
Commercial Snapping Turtles and Frog Permits	
Applications available on Fish and Wildlife's	
website. Questions can be emailed to	
NJFWFish@dep.nj.gov.	



2022 Trout Stocking Schedule
Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's trout stocking schedule or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm



Scan this QR code with your mobile device for a direct link to NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's website or visit: NJFishandWildlife.com



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This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08626-0420. The telephone number is 609-292-9410. You may also write to the Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240.

Director's Message

DAVE GOLDEN



In search of awesome fishing action? You've come to the right state. The streams, rivers and lakes of New Jersey provide anglers the opportunity to get outdoors and discover great fishing close to home. As always, our Digest is packed with helpful tips and information to keep your fishing experience safe, legal and enjoyable.

I'm excited to say that in 2021, the Division of Fish and Wildlife stocked more than 623,000 rainbow trout in waters across the state from our Pequest Hatchery where staff are on-track for another great year of trout production in 2022. After two years of a modified stocking schedule due to COVID, our plan for 2022 is to return to a normal stocking schedule with a full preseason closure of stocked waters (closed to all fishing March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m.) and a return to weekly, in-season closures.

Our Hackettstown Hatchery celebrates its 110th anniversary this year. In 2021, Hackettstown staff stocked 3.2 million warmwater fish. I can't wait to see what they are able to accomplish for 2022. Read more about the Hackettstown Hatchery's rich history and successes in the article on page 36.

With all the fish stocked in New Jersey's waters, this year, I encourage you to introduce someone to fishing and share the experience of the catch. The new-angler experience can be both fun and affordable with our fishing programs. If you are fishing with a child, remember that children *under* 16 can always fish for free. For those *over* 16, you can try out fishing on our two free fishing days in 2022 (June 4 and October 22). On these days, you can fish without purchasing a license. New anglers can also take advantage of our buddy license program, which gives two new anglers a nearly 50% discount when they purchase their licenses together. (See the money-saving feature on page 10 for more information.) This program is available through our electronic licensing system.

Revenues from your license purchase and fishing and hunting equipment purchases fund wildlife and sportfish conservation that we work so hard to deliver. To see where *you* fit into the Sport Fish Restoration Program, check out the facing page where it shows how anglers and boaters contribute millions of dollars each year to fisheries management and angler access in the state.

In 2022, the Division of Fish and Wildlife celebrates its 130th anniversary! Our dedicated team of conservation professionals are proud to work for an agency that has delivered conservation on behalf of the people of New Jersey for so many years. We truly couldn't have done it without your support.

Our *new* Wildlife Habitat Supporter program provides an excellent opportunity for nature enthusiasts, both non-license buyers *and* license buyers, to contribute toward the conservation and management of our growing wildlife management area system, which now totals over 360,000 acres.

Your donation helps us continue to manage and restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve public access, enforce fishing regulations and offer educational programs. Those who contribute \$25 or more receive the beautiful, first-edition collectible car decal shown on page eight. As a Wildlife Habitat Supporter, your donation helps us ensure the conservation of natural treasures from the mountain ridges to pinelands to wetlands to the Jersey shore.

Of the 360,000 acres in the system of wildlife management areas, do you find you often go to the most familiar and dependable spots? If you're ready to add some new adventures at different locations or to fish for new species, we have the tool for you. Our *Great Fishing Close to Home in New Jersey* app provides an interactive experience with detailed information on waterbodies, fish species and access points across the state (NJFishandWildlife.com/fishplc.htm). Locating a new a fishing spot has never been easier. Put it on your to-do list for 2022 — and send us a photo of what you catch to NJDFWPhotos@dep.nj.gov.

I'm excited for anyone who is reading this Digest because, most likely, that means you are getting ready to go fishing. Somewhere out there is a big, hungry fish waiting for you. Get outside and go find it! 🐟

Dave Golden is the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

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Get on The List!

The Freshwater Fisheries e-mail lists, that is. This free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to our freshwater fishing resources. And we have several other lists so you can maximize your enjoyment of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources.

Sign up today at: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

This guide is also available online at
eRegulations.com

Your License Dollars Make a Difference!

Angler-funded partnership improves New Jersey fishing



Anglers and boaters purchase fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.

Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on fishing equipment, electric motors, sonar and boaters pay fuel taxes.

Revenue from these federal excise taxes is distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies.

State fish and wildlife agencies receive federal funds to implement programs and projects.

Better fishing and boating-associated recreation and aquatic education increase the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life.

When you purchase fishing equipment in New Jersey, excise tax dollars – paid by manufacturers of fishing equipment – come back to New Jersey to support freshwater fisheries! This is the federal **Sport Fish Restoration Program**.



Your license fees and federal Sport Fish Restoration dollars produce the following benefits:

- Management of public waters
- Production of the sport fish stocked in public waters
- Development and management of public fishing areas
- Creation of aquatic education programs
- Development and maintenance of boating-associated access facilities throughout the state



Attention: New Jersey Anglers

Register. You make a difference! It's free, easy and required.

Before heading out to catch your favorite marine fish this year, be sure to join the hundreds of thousands of anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP). Freshwater anglers fishing in tidal freshwater are also required to register with the NJSRRP.

For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

After registering, become part of the fishery management process!

Submit fishing reports after each saltwater trip to the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. Your fishing reports can help improve saltwater fishing opportunities in New Jersey.

Submit online reports at NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm

Fish and Wildlife 2022 Calendar of Events

- **Fisheries Forum**
February 26; page 30
- **FREE Fishing Days**
June 4, Oct. 22; page 31
- **Trout Meeting**
March 12; page 30
- **Fall Trout Stocking**
begins Oct. 11
- **Opening Day of Trout Season**
April 9; page 14
- **Winter Trout Stocking**
November 21 and 22

Depending on the pandemic status, online virtual meetings may replace in-person events. For updates, visit our website as meeting dates approach.

Law Enforcement Offices

- **Northern Region — 908-735-8240**
(Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties)
- **Central Region — 609-259-2120**
(Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties)
- **Southern Region — 856-629-0555**
(Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties)
- **Marine Region — 609-748-2050**
(coastal and bay areas)

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Office of Natural and Historic Resources

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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

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Cover photo © Dave Vollenweider. A Walleye caught at Lake Hopatcong by Dave Vollenweider.

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Where to Write Us

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife
MC 501-03 • P.O. Box 420 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 • NJFishandWildlife.com

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Our Mission

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
- To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

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Garden State Walleye

By Craig Lemon, Superintendent, Hackettstown Hatchery and
Scott Collenburg, Senior Fisheries Biologist

The popularity of Walleye (*Sander vitreus*) fishing has grown throughout the United States over the last twenty years, and New Jersey is no exception.

The largest member of the Perch family, Walleye offer great sport and are often kept for consumption. The continued success of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Walleye Program has provided tremendous opportunities for local anglers and is a vital component of fishing in the Garden State.

Native to drainages east of the Rocky Mountains and west of the Appalachians, Walleye are not indigenous to New Jersey. However, Fish and Wildlife's sustained stocking effort has produced excellent fisheries in selected, suitable waters. The relatively small size and depth of most New Jersey lakes and reservoirs results in warmer water, limiting waterbodies suitable for stocking.

On Greenwood Lake in May of 2020,
John Selser caught this walleye
while casting a large swimbait.



Five impoundments (Canistear Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir and Swartswood Lake) are currently Walleye-stocked and have become attractive fisheries.

The Delaware River also supports a popular Walleye fishery. Incidental Walleye are occasionally caught elsewhere. These fish are a consequence of escapement and anglers illegally moving the fish from one waterbody to another.

Walleye Biology

Walleye are considered a coolwater fish species with an optimal water temperature of 69–75°F — significantly warmer than trout but cooler than warmwater fish like Largemouth Bass. Walleye tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions but are generally most abundant in moderate to large lakes or rivers characterized by cool temperatures, shallow to moderate depths, clean, rocky substrate with moderate turbidity and nutrient conditions. Mark-and-recapture studies conducted on Walleye in Swartswood Lake, Monksville Reservoir and the Delaware River to assess the potential for natural reproduction have shown limited success. Variable reproductive success is a chronic problem with Walleye, even in optimal habitat. Routine stocking is necessary to sustain fisheries due to habitat, spawning and recruitment limitations.

Mature Walleye congregate and perform spawning behavior, even though their efforts do not result in viable young. In New Jersey, Walleye spawning behavior can occur anywhere between late February to mid-April, with peak spawn observed when water temperatures are 43–54°F. Moving water is necessary to clear away fine sediment, cleanse and aerate eggs. No parental care is given to the eggs.

In June and July, Walleye can be found among inshore habitat with fine substrate, but by late summer they will move to deeper areas over rocky habitats, on the outside edge of weed beds, near points with drop offs or over open-bottomed flats.

Yellow Perch are a major prey item of Walleye and when young-of-the-year are abundant, Walleye will feed on them exclusively. However, Walleye are opportunistic and will feed on the young of many panfish, game species and minnows. Walleye grow faster, and have higher relative weights, in lakes with an Alewife population. All waterbodies currently stocked with Walleye in New Jersey have abundant Alewife and Yellow Perch populations.

Hatchery Production

Walleye stocking began by private fishing clubs in several New Jersey lakes in the early 1900's with Greenwood Lake and Lake Hopatcong producing the most prominent fisheries. Fish and Wildlife's modern-day propagation of Walleye began in 1989, with 2.2 million eggs shipped from New York and Ontario. Next, 1.2 million fry were stocked in the then-new Monksville Reservoir. The remainder were set up in hatchery ponds and grown to 2 inches, with 55,000 fingerlings stocked in Monksville Reservoir.

Eggs were obtained from the PA Fish and Boat Commission until 1992. In 1993, Fish and Wildlife

collected Walleye broodstock from Monksville Reservoir which were brought back to the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery and spawned. From 1995-2000, broodstock were taken from Monksville Reservoir and supplemented with eggs from the PA Fish and Boat Commission, if needed.

The 1999 construction of a new intensive fish culture facility at the Hackettstown Hatchery set the stage for developing a consistent rearing program. From 2000 to 2019, all Walleye broodstock came from Swartswood Lake. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, eggs have been procured from Pennsylvania.

Walleye broodstock collection begins annually around April 1 when fish travel to their spawning grounds. New Jersey's primary broodstock source is Swartswood Lake in Sussex County. Hatchery staff set a trap net near the mouth of Neldon Brook, checking it daily until the target number of 50 gravid (egg-bearing) females is reached, representing five million eggs. Mature Walleye are transported back to the hatchery, held in 2,000-gallon tanks at 52°F and checked daily for ripeness.

The process starts with a dozen ripe females and approximately three times as many males. The fish are rinsed in clean water, then the eggs and milt are manually stripped into a bowl. Using a goose feather, eggs are gently stirred for two minutes; a cup of water is added to initiate fertilization.

Hatching begins on day 15. The sac fry swim up and out of the jar and are captured in a 250-gallon trough below. The tiny fry suspend and congregate under the lights. Screens must be covered with nylon leggings to prevent escapement. After two days, most fry have hatched.

One-half million fry are moved to a 4-acre hatchery pond that was previously fertilized to create phytoplankton and zooplankton blooms on which the fry will feed. Water chemistry is monitored daily to alert hatchery staff as to when fertilizer should be applied or if water flow needs to be adjusted. After 40 days, hatchery staff samples the pond with a 40-foot seine to confirm that the Walleye have grown to 1.5-inch fingerlings. The pond and fingerlings are monitored closely until healthy, 1.8–2.0-inch pond fingerlings are achieved.

Around day 50, 100,000 Walleye fingerlings are stocked into five inland waters: Canistota Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir and Swartswood Lake, with surplus fish stocked in the Delaware River. Additional 2-inch Walleye are retained in three, 1-acre growout ponds with 17,500 fish per pond.

Hatchery staff will stock these ponds with approximately 1,800 pounds — or 3.6 million — minnow fry to feed the Walleye until they become 4-inch advanced fingerlings. It is estimated to take three pounds of forage to produce one pound of Walleye. The number of Walleye available for stocking varies from year to year due to fluctuating survival rates in hatchery ponds, with a good return rate of 65%. The annual target for Walleye is 24,000.

Since Fish and Wildlife's Walleye Program began, the hatchery has stocked over 10 million 2-inch pond fingerlings and 1 million 4-inch advanced fingerlings. Hatchery staff have handled 23 females during trap netting that tipped the scales over

10 pounds. The largest in 2004 weighed 13.6 pounds, equaling the current state record catch. The average Walleye size has increased over the years from 18 inches/2.39 pounds in 2000 to 20.3 inches/4.1 pounds recently. Females went from 19.3 inches/3.03 pounds in 2000 to 22.9 inches/6.2 pounds in 2019. Measurements were taken during spawning when fish are their heaviest.

Walleye Management

New Jersey's established Walleye lakes and reservoirs are limited by habitat, dictated by geology and topography. High-quality, Walleye-supporting waterbodies are geographically limited to the northern area of the state. Central and southern waterbodies are typically smaller, shallower and warmer, making them less suitable for Walleye. Our fisheries biologists are currently exploring additional waterbodies for potential future stocking. Those at the top of the list include Splitrock Reservoir (Morris) and Manasquan Reservoir (Monmouth).


New Jersey's annual Walleye stocking rate is 20 fish/acre at a ratio of 80% pond fingerlings (2 inches) and 20% advanced fingerlings (4 inches). Stocking rates utilized by other states vary, dependent on fingerling size, individual lake management plans, habitat considerations, prey availability and past stocking success. In New Jersey, stocking rates may be altered if negative findings are documented such as poor growth or condition, adverse effects to other competing species or other undesirable impacts. Reduced stocking rates may also be implemented when new waters are added to the program.

A thorough assessment of New Jersey's stocking program was conducted from 2014 to 2017. To assess these populations, fisheries biologists utilized night electrofishing, along with trap netting on some waterbodies. Results from these spring assessments indicate abundant Walleye populations in all waterbodies sampled, with the highest abundance in Canistota Reservoir. For more detailed information on the most recent assessments of New Jersey's Walleye lakes and reservoirs, please refer to the 2018 report *Assessment and Management of New Jersey's Stocked Coolwater Fishes*.

Angler sentiment for Walleye is high. Fish and Wildlife's 2015 Warmwater/Coolwater Angler Survey revealed that among respondents, 28.2% of New Jersey anglers target Walleye; 70.3% fish for them *only in New Jersey*. The Walleye population in the Delaware River is considered strong based on angler catch rates, but that fishery has not been fully evaluated. Survey respondents demonstrated that the Delaware River was targeted the most and had the highest level of satisfaction among anglers.

The statewide regulation allows for three Walleye with a minimum length of 18 inches. In 1996, a catch and release season (March 1 to April 30) was established on all waterbodies except the Delaware River.

Although Walleye populations are not supported through natural reproduction, Walleye are afforded similar protections from harvest during their spawning period due to the species' tendency to congregate then in large numbers in shallow river areas. These protections prevent species exploitation such



Five million incubating Walleye eggs.

as overharvest or unsportsmanlike take. Recently, consideration is being given to the removal of the catch and release season on certain waterbodies based on reports and studies conducted in other states documenting that exploitation of Walleye is not the major driver of Walleye abundance or population size structure.


See Walleye regulations on pages 22, 24 and 26.

Fishing Tips

Walleye fishing in New Jersey is excellent throughout the entire year. Walleye are light-sensitive, so anglers will find the greatest activity during low light conditions — overcast days, dawn, dusk and at night. Lakes and rivers with high turbidity can provide excellent daytime opportunities.

In the spring, lake-dwelling Walleye move from deep wintering areas into the shallows to spawn. They can be found at moderate depths (15–30 feet) during the summer months but may move shallower during low light conditions. In the early fall, when water temperatures begin to drop, Walleye will move into the shallows to feed. As fall temperatures continue to decline, Walleye return to deeper areas for the winter.

Live bait and artificial lures are equally productive in both lakes and rivers. Live minnows, herring and nightcrawlers fished on 1/8- to 3/8-oz. jigs retrieved or drifted along the bottom are very effective. Artificial baits, including crankbaits, jerkbaits and jigs, are excellent choices for both lakes and rivers.



Four-inch advanced pond fingerling Walleyes.

Become a Wildlife Habitat Supporter!

Did you know that the Division of Fish and Wildlife manages more than 358,000 acres in 122 wildlife management areas throughout the state?

These spaces protect and conserve fish and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities for outdoor recreation such as fishing, hunting, birding, wildlife viewing, hiking and more! You can help to ensure the conservation of these natural treasures for the enjoyment of generations to come by becoming a Wildlife Habitat Supporter and making a donation. Donations will be used to:

- Manage and restore fish and wildlife habitat.
- Enforce fish and wildlife regulations.
- Restore and protect endangered and nongame species.
- Fund fish and wildlife educational programs and more.
- Improve public access to recreational facilities on WMAs.



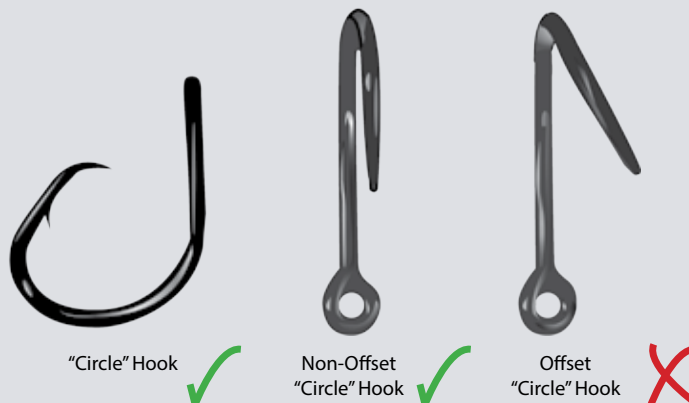
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Supporters who donate \$25 or more receive a beautiful, first-edition collectible car decal.

Visit NJFishandWildlife.com/whsp.htm

Striped Bass Circle Hook Requirement

To reduce Striped Bass release mortality, non-offset (inline) circle hooks must be used when fishing for Striped Bass with bait in all waters. Bait is defined as any marine or aquatic organism live or dead, whole or parts thereof. This restriction shall not apply to an artificial lure with bait attached. A circle hook is a non-offset hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. Non-offset means that the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank. Striped Bass caught using an unapproved take method must be immediately returned to the water.



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Regulations in **red** are new this year.

Licenses

- A valid New Jersey fishing license is required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age (plus all non-residents 16 years and older) to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey, including privately owned waters. **See below for the money-saving Buddy Fishing License.**
- For fishing-related license and permit fees, see page 1. See below for *Purchasing a License*.
- Resident anglers age 70 and over do not require a fishing license. A driver license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license. Non-residents 70 and over must purchase a license.
- License must be visibly displayed on outer clothing.
- License and trout stamp are both valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must have an established domicile (principle residence) in New Jersey for at least the previous six months to obtain a resident fishing license.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.
- Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey sporting licenses revoked for a minimum of two years.
- New Jersey is a member of the **Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact**. Under the Compact, information about suspension of sporting license privileges for people convicted of wildlife violations in New Jersey will be shared with participating member states. It is an individual's responsibility to first contact the licensing authority in the state where they intend to fish, hunt or otherwise take wildlife to determine their eligibility before making a purchase or engaging in those activities. Individuals with wildlife violation convictions or license suspensions received outside of

New Jersey may call the Compact Administrator at 609-259-3347 to determine his or her license eligibility in New Jersey.

Trout Stamps

A valid fishing license and trout stamp are both required to fish for or possess trout and salmon for all anglers (residents and non-residents) 16 and over, and residents under the age of 70. No trout stamp is required for **residents** age 70 years and over.

Purchasing a License

Licenses may be purchased online at <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales> or at license agents such as sporting goods or bait and tackle stores. Call first to confirm agent's system is active. Visit NJFishandWildlife.com for details, or call 609-292-2965.

Replacement — Lost License or Stamp

Replace a license, permit or stamp at any license agent or online at Fish and Wildlife's internet license sales site, <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales> also linked through our regular website at NJFishandWildlife.com. For fishing licenses or trout stamps originally purchased online, a reprint can be made free of charge on plain paper. Durable stock duplicates can be ordered online for \$2 per item.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

A person on active duty in the United States armed services, regardless of their current residency, may buy a New Jersey resident fishing license. Active duty military ID must be shown to the license agent as proof of entitlement.

New Jersey National Guard

Only New Jersey National Guard personnel in good standing are entitled to free sporting licenses, permits and stamps. These privileges are not available using Fish and Wildlife's website. However, the NJ Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs can issue fishing licenses through their DMAVA website at www.nj.gov/military/iasd/fishing.html. For all other free sporting licenses, call 609-530-6866, email robert.greco@dmava.nj.gov, or write to: NJ Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs, Attn: MSG (Ret.) Robert Greco (RSB-RALV), PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.

Veterans Licenses, Stamps and Permits

Free hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and permits are available for resident veterans with a service-connected disability.

For the purposes of this program, legislation defines disabled veterans as "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree..."

Newly applying disabled veterans can obtain their hunting and fishing licenses and stamps by mailing the application and all required documentation to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Disabled Veteran Licensing, MC 501-03, PO Box 420 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Fish and Wildlife offices no longer accept Disabled Veteran Certifications in person. For information and updates, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/dvinfo.htm.

All licenses, stamps and permits for which the veteran is eligible will be free of charge. This does not give preferential treatment in any lottery. For questions call 609-292-2965.

Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable

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For more information, visit NJFishandWildlife.com/fishbuddy.htm. Persons who already receive special discount pricing or free licenses, senior license buyers (65 and over), disabled vets, National Guard personnel are not eligible for a "Buddy" fishing license.



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Summary of Fishing Regulations

2022 REGULATIONS

discharge (copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to obtain a disabled veteran certification.

- Applicant must provide a hunter education course certificate applicable to the license for which they are applying or a previously issued resident archery or firearm license or rifle permit. Resident licenses from other states are accepted if the license indicates the sporting arm for which it was valid. Non-resident licenses from other states are not acceptable.
- To obtain the free disabled veteran deer/turkey permits one must first have a free disabled veteran hunting license.

For the Blind

Residents with total blindness may obtain a free license. Call 609-292-2965 for an application.

Summary of General Fishing Regulations

The season, size and creel limits for freshwater species apply to all waters of the state, including tidal waters.

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- When fishing from the *shoreline*, no more than three fishing rods, handlines or combination thereof may be used (except on the Delaware River. There is no rod limit when fishing from a *boat* except for the Delaware River.) **For the Delaware River the three rod limit applies both to boat and shoreline anglers** (see page 25).
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- Boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespassing on private property. Permission must first be obtained from the landowner.

It Is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters except as specified for Delaware River, page 25.
- Possess a fishing device with more than nine hooks in total, or more than three treble hooks, except for the Delaware River; see page 25.
- Use set lines.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See *Baitfish Regulations*, page 27 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook or snag any species of fish. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Carp (including bighead, common, grass), eels, flathead catfish, American shad (Delaware River only), gizzard shad, snakeheads and suckers or hybrids

Water Supply Reservoirs Open To Fishing By Permit Only

Permits must be obtained from the specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source
Newark-Pequanock Watershed Reservoirs	Echo Lake	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed reservoir permits available in person only at these locations: City of Newark 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 973-697-1724
	Clinton Reservoir			
	Oak Ridge Reservoir			
	Canistear Reservoir	Sussex		
Oradell Reservoir Woodcliff Lake Lake Tappan Reservoir Lake Deforest	Bergen	Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 461 From Rd. Paramus, NJ 07652 Suez Watershed Application 201-767-9300 x3208 www.suezwatershed.com

of these species—may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow (with a line attached to the arrow) when in possession of a valid fishing license. Crossbows may be used when bowfishing except for Greenwood Lake. Crossbows must have a stock length of at least 25 inches, a minimum draw weight of 75 pounds and a working safety. Crossbows must be uncocked during transport or when not actively fishing. They may not be permanently mounted. **NOTE: some municipalities have banned the discharge of bow and arrow, tethered arrow or not. As such, anglers are strongly urged to check with the waterbody owner and/or municipality prior to engaging in bowfishing.** See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, pages 24–26.

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an emergency closure notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Director deems practical.

Ice Fishing

No more than five devices per person may be used when fishing through the ice. Legal devices include:

- Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to shaft.
- An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than ½-inch from point to point.
- An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than ½-inch from point to shaft.
- An artificial jigging lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jigging lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

Potentially Dangerous Fish

The possession or release of live, potentially dangerous fish is prohibited. These species include Asian swamp eel, bighead, grass (diploid) and silver carp, **blue** and flathead catfish, **round goby**, brook stickleback, green sunfish, oriental weatherfish, snakehead and warmouth. **All black bass except for largemouth and smallmouth bass are considered potentially dangerous. Anglers MUST destroy these species if encountered while fishing and should submit specimen(s) or photos to a Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries biologist for verification.** To reach a regional biologist, call 908-236-2118 (north), 609-223-6076 (central) or 856-629-4950 (south). These non-native species are likely to cause environmental harm to the state's fisheries resources by outcompeting preferred game fish species. Common carp are an invasive species but are NOT classified as a potentially dangerous fish and do not have to be destroyed.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish Code. Artificially-propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.


Stocking Fish

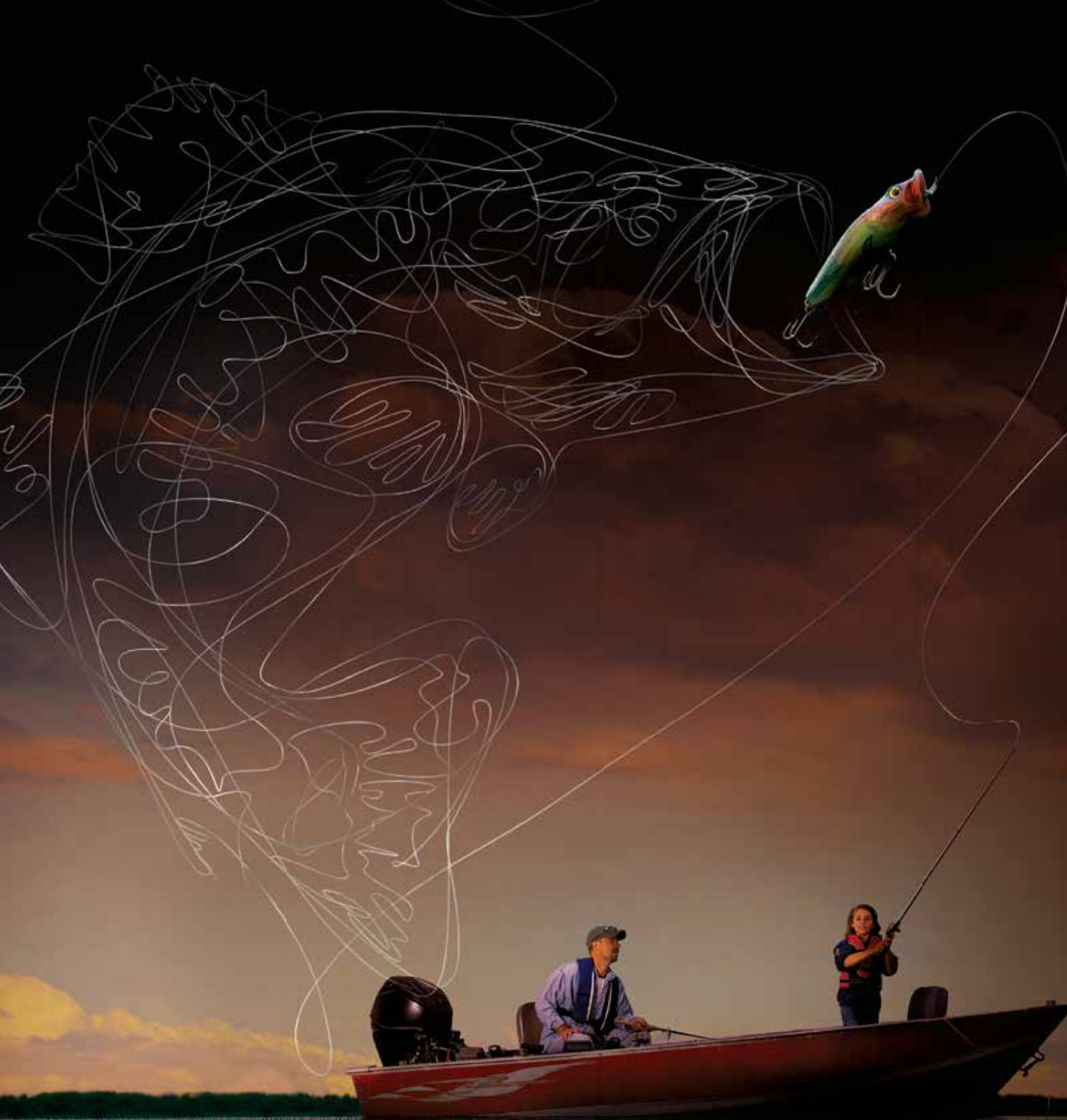
A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any waters of the state, public or private, at any time. Applications are available online at NJFishandWildlife.com/fishperms.htm or by contacting the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries 908-236-2118. **It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any waters. No trout may be used as bait or stocked within the PEQUEST RIVER DRAINAGE except by the Pequest Trout Hatchery.**

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a fish stocking permit or by special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Contact the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries 908-236-2118 for application information.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 



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Regulations in **red** are new this year.

2022 General Trout Fishing Information

- Opening day of trout season: Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 8 a.m.
- To fish for trout or salmon, a valid New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp are both required for residents at least 16 years and less than 70 years of age plus all non-residents 16 years and older.
- **All Brook Trout caught within the "Brook Trout Conservation Zone" must be immediately released unharmed.** The zone consists of all waters within the northwest region of the state, where most remaining wild Brook Trout populations occur. The Conservation Zone includes all waters west of I-287 and north of Rt. 202, extending to, but not including the Delaware River. See map on page 19.
- Waters stocked with trout in the spring are listed below (those with no in-season closures) **AND** on page 16 (those *with* in-season closures). **Note:** Special regulations may apply on some of these waters, or sections thereof.
- During the three weeks prior to opening day, all ponds, lakes or sections of streams listed are stocked with trout, except Trophy Trout Lakes. These waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 21 to April 9 at 8 a.m. Exceptions: Lake Hopatcong, Mountain Lake, Lake Shenandoah, Lawrence Brook (section from Davidson's Mill Rd. to Farrington Lake dam), Prospertown Lake and Swartwood Lake are open year round to fishing. However, all trout caught during this period (above) must be released immediately. Seasonal and Year-round Trout Conservation Areas and designated Holdover Trout Lakes (see pages 17–19) are also open to fishing but are catch-and-release only for trout. Fishing is not permitted on Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. on April 9, 2022. Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoirs (Trophy Trout Lakes) are open to year-round fishing; trout may be harvested within the regulations as shown on page 19.
- **After opening day, trout stocked waters are open to fishing, including the days they are stocked, unless specifically listed with in-season closures (page 16). In-season closures also apply to designated Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas (page 17).**
- Only one daily creel limit of trout may be in possession. Once the creel limit is reached, an angler may continue to fish provided any additional trout caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- **When fishing from the shoreline, no more than three fishing rods, hand lines or combination thereof may be used. Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.**
- Containers in boats may hold only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to suspend stocking when emergency conditions prevail.

Spring Trout Stocked Waters With No In-Season Fishing Closures

After opening day, these waters may be fished on the day they are stocked.

Note: All waters listed are stocked with trout pre-season (three-week period preceding opening day) except Round Valley and Merrill Creek Reservoirs. The number in parentheses shows the anticipated number of in-season stockings (April 11 through May 27). A zero indicates the water will be stocked only during pre-season. For weekly updates on stocking details, call the **Trout Hotline's recorded message at 609-633-6765**. (Spring stocking: April–May; Fall stocking: October; Winter stocking: November.) Or visit NJFishandWildlife.com where you will also find directions to public-access portions of trout-stocked waters

Atlantic County

Birch Grove Park Ponds—Northfield (3)
Hammonton Lake—Town of Hammonton (3)
Heritage Pond—Absecon (3)

Bergen County

Dahnert's Lake—Garfield (4)
Hackensack River—Lake Tappan to Harriot Ave., Harrington Park Borough (4)
Hohokus Brook—Parsons Pond Rd., Franklin Lakes Borough to Saddle River (4)
Indian Lake—Little Ferry Borough (4)
Mill Pond (aka Silver Lake)—Park Ridge Borough (3)
Pascack Brook—Woodcliff Lake dam to Emerson Rd., Harrington Park Borough (4)

Porash Lake—Oakland (3)
Saddle River—Lake St. Upper Saddle River to West Century Rd., Fair Lawn (5)
Tenakill Brook—Closter Borough, entire length (3)
Whites Pond—Waldwick Borough (4)

Burlington County

Crystal Lake—Willingboro Twp. (4)
Laurel Pond—Mt. Laurel Twp. (3)
Pemberton Lake—Pemberton Twp. (3)
Rancocas Creek, Southwest Br.—Mill St. Park to Rt. 70, Medford Twp. (4)
Sylvan Lake—Burlington Twp. (3)

Camden County

Gloucester City Pond—Gloucester (4)
Grenloch Lake (see Gloucester County)
Haddon Lake—Audubon Borough (0)
Oak Pond—Sicklerville, Winslow Twp. (3)
Rowands Lake—Clementon Borough (3)

Cape May County

Ponderlodge Pond—Villas, Lower Twp. (4)
Tuckahoe Lake—Tuckahoe, Upper Twp. (4)

Cumberland County

Cohansey River—Dam at Seeleys Pond to powerline above Sunset Lake, Upper Deerfield Twp. (4)
Giampietro Park Lake—Vineland (0)
Mary Elmer Lake—Bridgeton (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
Shaws Mill Pond—Down/Lawrence Twps. (3)
South Vineland Park Pond—Vineland (3)

Essex County

Branch Brook Park Lake—Newark (4)
Diamond Mill Pond—Millburn Twp. (3)
Rahway River, W/Br.—Campbells Pond to Essex St., Millburn Twp. (3)

Verona Lake—Verona Twp. (4)

Gloucester County

Greenwich Lake—Greenwich Twp. (3)
Grenloch Lake—Washington Twp. (3)
Harrisonville Lake—Pilesgrove/South Harrison Twps. (3)
Iona Lake—Franklin Twp. (3)
Swedesboro Lake (aka Narraticon Lake)—Borough of Swedesboro (3)
Westville Lake—Westville (0)

Hudson County

North Hudson Park Lake—(aka JJ Braddock Park Lake), North Bergen Twp. (4)
West Hudson County Park Pond—Harrison (0)

Hunterdon County

Alexauken Creek—West Amwell Twp., entire length (2)
Amwell Lake—East Amwell Twp. (3)
Capoolong Creek (aka Cakepoulin Creek)—Franklin Twp., entire length (5)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—source to Wilburtha Rd., Ewing Twp. (Mercer) (6)
Hakihokake Creek—Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd., Little York, Alexandria Twp. to Delaware River (2)
Lockatong Creek—Route 12, Kingwood Twp. to Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal (5)
Mannys Pond—Union Twp. (3)
Mountain Farm Pond—Lebanon Twp. (3)
Mulhockaway Creek—Pattensburg, source to Spruce Run Reservoir, Clinton/Union Twps. (5)
Neshanic River—confluence of First and Second Neshanic Rivers to Rt. 514, Raritan Twp. (2)
Nishisakawick Creek—Frenchtown Alexandria Twp., entire length (2)
Rockaway Creek—Readington Twp., entire length (4)
Round Valley Reservoir—Clinton Twp. (1)
Sidney Brook—Franklin/Union Twps., entire length (1)

OPENING DAY of TROUT SEASON

▶ April 9, 2022 April 6, 2024
April 8, 2023 April 5, 2025

Spruce Run—Glen Gardner Borough/Lebanon Twp., entire length (5)
Stony Brook—(See Mercer Co.)
Wickecheoke Creek—Covered Bridge, Rt. 604, Sergeantsville to Delaware River (2)

Mercer County

Assunpink Creek—Assunpink Site 5 dam upstream of Rt. 130 to Carnegie Rd., Hamilton Twp. (4)
Colonial Lake—Lawrence Twp. (3)
Delaware-Raritan Canal—Mulberry St., Trenton to Alexander St., Princeton (4)
Delaware-Raritan Feeder Canal—(See Hunterdon Co.) (6)
Rosedale Lake—Hopewell Twp. (3)
Stony Brook—Hopewell Twp., entire length (4)

Middlesex County

Ireland Brook—500 ft. upstream of Riva Ave to Farrington Lake, North Brunswick Twp. (2)
Lake Papaiani—Edison Twp. (0)
Lawrence Brook—Dam at Davidson's Mill Pond to 2nd RR bridge (Raritan Railroad) below Main St., Milltown Borough, excluding Farrington Lake from Church Lane to Farrington Dam (4)
Manalapan Lake—Monroe Twp. (3)
Roosevelt Park Pond—Edison Twp. (3)

Monmouth County

Echo Lake—Howell Twp. (2)
Englishtown Mill Pond (aka Weamaconk Lake)—Englishtown Borough (3)
Franklin Lake—West Long Branch Borough (3)
Garvey's Pond—Middletown Twp. (3)
Hockhockson Brook—Rt. 18, Colts Neck Twp. to Garden State Parkway bridge (northbound), Tinton Falls Borough (5)
Holmdel Park Pond—Holmdel Twp. (3)
Mac's Pond—Manasquan Borough (0)
Mingamahone Brook—Birdsall Rd. to Manasquan River, Howell Twp. (5)
Mohawk Pond—Red Bank Borough (4)
Shark River—Rt. 33, Wall Twp., to Remsen Mill Rd., Neptune/Wall Twp. (5)
Spring Lake—Spring Lake Borough (3)
Topanemus Lake—Freehold Twp. (3)
Yellow Brook—Heyers Mill Rd. to Muhlenbrink Rd., Colts Neck Twp. (2)

Morris County

Beaver Brook—Rockaway Twp./Borough, entire length (3)
Black River—Route 206 Chester, to the posted Black River Fish and Game club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park (6)
Burnham Park Ponds (Upper and Lower)—Town of Morristown (4)
Drakes Brook—Mr. Olive/Roxbury Twps., entire length (3)
Hibernia Brook—Rockaway Twp., entire length (5)
India Brook—Mountainside Ave. to Rt. 24, Mendham Borough (5)
Lake Hopatcong—Hopatcong/Jefferson/Mt. Arlington/Roxbury (3)
Lake Musconetcong—Netcong Borough/Roxbury Twp./Stanhope Borough (3)
Mt. Hope Pond—Rockaway Twp. (3)

Passaic River—Black Brook confluence to Rt. 24, Chatham Borough (4)
Pequannock River—(see Passaic Co.)
Pompton River—(see Passaic Co.)
Russia Brook—Ridge Rd. to Lake Swannanoa, Jefferson Twp. (2)
Speedwell Lake—Town of Morristown (4)
Whippany River—Tingley Rd., Morris Twp. to Ridgedale Ave., Town of Morristown (2)

Ocean County

Lake Shenandoah—Ocean Co. Park, Lakewood Twp. (3)
Pohatcong Lake—Borough of Tuckerton (4)
Prospectown Lake—Jackson Twp. (3)

Passaic County

Barbour Pond—Woodland Park Borough (3)
Clinton Reservoir—Newark Watershed, West Milford Twp. (3)
Green Turtle Lake—Long Pond Ironworks State Park, West Milford Twp. (3)
Oldham Pond—North Haledon Borough (3)
Pequannock River—Rt. 23, Smith Mills to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes/Riverdale Boroughs (6)
Pompton River—confluence with Ramapo River to NY Susquehanna R.R. bridge, Wayne Twp. (4)
Ramapo River—Pompton Lake dam to confluence with Pompton River (4)
Ringwood Brook—State line to Sally's Pond, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough (5)
Sheppard Lake—Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough (3)

Salem County

Harrisonville Lake—Pilesgrove/South Harrison Twps. (3)
Maurice River—Willow Grove Lake dam to Sherman Ave., Vineland (4)
Schadler's Sand Wash Pond—Carneys Point Twp. (3)

Somerset County

Lamington River—Rt. 523 (Lamington Rd.) Bedminster Twp. to Raritan River N. Br. (4)
Middle Brook, E/Br.—Bridgewater/Warren Twps., entire length (2)
Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
Peapack Brook—Peapack-Gladstone Borough, entire length (5)
Raritan River—confluence of Raritan River N. Br. and S. Br. to Rt. 206, Hillsborough Twp./Somerville Borough (4)
Rock Brook—Hillsborough/Montgomery Twps., entire length (1)
Spooky Brook Park Pond—Franklin Twp. (0)

Sussex County


Alm's House Pond—Frankford Twp. (3)
Andover Junction Brook—Andover Borough, entire length (2)
Big Flat Brook, Upper—Sawmill Pond, High Point State Park, Montague Twp. to 100 ft. above Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (4)
Blue Mountain Lake—Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area, Walpack Twp. (3)
Clove Brook—source to Clove Acres Lake, Wantage Twp. (5)

Culver's Creek—Frankford Twp., entire length (2)
Dry Brook—Branchville Borough/Frankford Twp., entire length (3)
Franklin Pond Creek—Hamburg Mtn. WMA, Hardyston Twp./Franklin Borough, entire length (5)
Glenwood Brook—Glenwood Lake dam to state line (2)
Lake Aeroflex—Andover Twp. (3)
Lake Hopatcong—Hopatcong/Mt. Arlington Boroughs, Jefferson/Roxbury Twps. (3)
Lake Musconetcong—Netcong/Stanhope Boroughs/Roxbury Twp. (3)
Lake Ocquittunk—Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (3)
Little Flat Brook—Sandyston Twp., entire length (5)
Little Swartswood Lake—Hampton Twp. (3)
Lubbers Run—Byram Twp., entire length (5)
Neldon Brook—Stillwater Twp., entire length (2)
Papakating Creek—George Hill Rd., Frankford Twp. to Rt. 565, Lewisburg (2)
Papakating Creek, W/Br.—Wantage Twp., entire length (2)
Pond Brook—Stillwater Twp., entire length (5)
Sawmill Pond—High Point State Park, Montague Twp. (3)
Silver Lake—Hamburg Mountain WMA, Hardyston Twp. (0)
Stony Lake—Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. (3)
Swartswood Lake—Stillwater Twp. (3)
Wallkill River—Lake Mohawk Dam to Route 23, Hardyston Twp. (4-5)
Wawayanda Creek—Vernon Twp., entire length (5)
Wawayanda Lake—Vernon Twp. (3)

Union County

Green Brook—Rt. 527, Berkeley Heights Twp. to Rt. 22, Scotch Plains Twp. (2)
Lower Echo Lake—Mountainside Borough (3)
Milton Lake—Rahway (4)
Nomahegan Park Lake—Cranford Twp. (4)
Passaic River—(See Morris Co.)
Rahway River—I-78 bridge, Springfield to Lawrence St. (Route 514), Rahway (4)
Seeleys Pond—Berkeley Heights Twp. (3)
Warinanco Park Lake—Roselle Borough (0)

Warren County

Beaver Brook—Silver Lake Dam to Pequest River, White Twp. (4)
Blair Creek—Bass Lake dam, Hardwick Twp. to Blair Lake, Blairstown Twp. (2)
Blair Lake—Blairstown Twp. (3)
Brookaloo Swamp—Hope Twp., entire length (2)
Buckhorn Creek—Harmony Twp., entire length (2)
Furnace Brook—Oxford Twp., entire length (2)
Furnace Lake—Oxford Twp. (3)
Honey Run—Knowlton-Hope township line to Beaver Brook, Hope Twp. (2)
Jacksonburg Creek—Blairstown Twp., entire length (2)
Lopatcong Creek—Rt. 519 Harmony Twp., to South Main St., Phillipsburg (5)
Merrill Creek Reservoir—Harmony Twp. (1)
Mountain Lake—Liberty Twp. (0)
Pohatcong Creek—source to Rt. 31, Washington Twp. (2)
Pophandusing Creek—White Twp., entire length (2)
White Lake—Hardwick Twp. (3) 

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

General Trout Fishing Regulations

BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT (and their hybrids and strains)

***ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN THE BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.**

The Conservation Zone includes all waters west of I-287 and north of Rt. 202, extending to, but not including the Delaware River.

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Exceptions
January 1–March 20	9 inches	4*	1. Special regulation areas (Catch and Release Areas, Year-Round and Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas, Trophy and Holdover Trout Lakes and Wild Trout Streams). 2. On lakes Hopatcong, Mountain, Prospertown, Shenandoah, Swartswood and the section of Lawrence Brook from Davidson's Mill Road bridge to the Church Lane bridge, fishing is permitted during the period March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 3. Greenwood Lake and Delaware River—see separate regulations for boundary waters, pages 24-26.
March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on trout stocked waters. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.		
April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	6*	
June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	4*	

Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring In-season Stocking Dates

After opening day, these waters are closed to fishing from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on their designated stocking dates. Closures apply to all tributaries for 100 feet from the main channel.

***All Brook Trout caught within the BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE must be released. There are no closures for ANY waters in the fall.**

Trout Stocking Hotline: 609-633-6765.

TROUT STOCKED WATERS CLOSED TO FISHING (5 A.M. TO 5 P.M.) ON SPRING IN-SEASON STOCKING DATES

Stocking Dates	Waterbody	County	Location
MONDAYS April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	Manasquan River	Monmouth	Rt. 9 bridge, Howell Twp. downstream to Allenwood-Lakewood Rd. (Rt. 21), Wall Twp.
	Metedeconk River, N/Br.	Ocean	Aldrich Rd. to Ridge Ave., Howell/Lakewood Twps.
	Metedeconk River, S/Br.	Ocean	Bennetts Mills dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Dr., Lakewood Twp.
	Rockaway River**	Morris	Longwood Lake dam, Jefferson Twp. to Boonton Reservoir (aka Jersey City Res.), Boonton
	Toms River	Ocean	Rt. 528, Jackson Twp., to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 to Rt. 571, Toms River/Manchester Twps. (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
TUESDAYS April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	Pohatcong Creek**	Warren	Rt. 31, Washington Twp. to Delaware River
	Raritan River, S/Br.**	Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon	Mill dam located 200 feet upstream from Schooleys Mountain Rd. (Rt. 517), Long Valley to junction with Raritan River N/Br. (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
WEDNESDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	Raritan River, N/Br.**	Somerset	Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills Borough/Bedminster Twp. to junction with Raritan River S. Br.
THURSDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br.**	Sussex, Warren	Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br., Lafayette Twp., to Columbia Lake (old dam site). Columbia WMA below Warrington Rd is closed to the public. Please check Fish and Wildlife's website for updates.
	Ramapo River**	Bergen	State line to Pompton Lake, Oakland (excluding Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 15, 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20, 27	Big Flat/Flat Brook**	Sussex	100 ft. above Crigger Rd., Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp. to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as Catch and Release.)
	Musconetcong River**	Sussex, Morris, Warren and Hunterdon	Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all main stem impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (Exception: the section regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Pequest River**	Warren and Sussex	Pequest Rd., Green Twp. to Delaware River (Exception: the section regulated as a Seasonal Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.)
	Wanaque River**	Passaic	Greenwood Lake dam, West Milford, Twp. to Wanaque Reservoir dam, Wanaque Borough and from Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes Borough to Pequannock River, excluding the Wanaque and Monkville reservoirs.

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Boundary Waters (see page 24)

Locations	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Delaware River	All trout species	April 16 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15 (Trout caught at other times must be released immediately.)	No minimum	5

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

Trout-Stocked Streams — Wild Brown Trout Managed

*ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.

Waterbody	Season	Species	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Hakihohake Creek** - Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd., Little York Alexandria Twp. to Delaware R. Lopatcong Creek** - Rt. 519, Harmony Twp., Warren to Delaware R. Pophandusing Creek** - White Twp., entire length Raritan River S/Br.** - Mill dam located 200 feet above Schooley's Mountain Rd. (Rt 517), Long Valley (Hunterdon), downstream to Lake Solitude dam, excluding Ken Lockwood Gorge (Catch and Release Only) Saddle River - Lake Street, Upper Saddle River Twp., to West Century Rd., Fairlawn/Paramus Boroughs	Jan. 1–March 20	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	4 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	
	March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	—	Fishing prohibited	
	April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 31	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	6 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	
	June 1–Dec. 31	Rainbow and Brook Trout*	9 inches	4 combined Only 2 of which may be Brown Trout
		Brown Trout	12 inches	

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs)

*ALL BROOK TROUT CAUGHT WITHIN BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION ZONE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNHARMED.

YEAR ROUND TCAs				
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions (in effect year round)	
Jan. 1–March 20	15 inches	1	1. Only artificial lures and flies may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Fishing is allowed during the spring in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be released immediately.	
March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only			
April 9 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)		
Year Round TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions *	
Musconetcong River**—Point Mountain Stretch (Hunterdon/Warren) Penwell Rd. bridge downstream to Point Mountain Rd. bridge (approx. 1.2 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 57 E. Upper boundary: turn right on Penwell Rd. Lower boundary: turn right on Point Mountain Rd. Parking areas located near each bridge.	
Toms River (Ocean) End of Riverwood Park (Tom's River Twp.) downstream to Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile)			Rt. 195 (Exit 21) to Rts. 527/528 S. (Cedar Swamp Rd./ Veterans Hwy.) to Rt. 527 S. (Whitesville Rd.) to Riverwood Dr. to entrance of Riverview Park.	
SEASONAL TCAs				
Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions	
Jan. 1–March 20	15 inches	1	1. Only artificial lures may be used. 2. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3. Pequest River — fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, page 16). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 27), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must be immediately released.	
March 21–April 8	Catch and release only			
April 9 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing prohibited			
April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 22 Gear restrictions do not apply	9 inches	6		
May 23–Dec. 31	15 inches	1		
Seasonal TCA Waterbody (County)			Driving Directions *	
Pequannock River** (Morris/Passaic) Railroad trestle below Appelt Park, Bloomingdale, downstream to Hamburg Turnpike bridge, Pompton Lakes (approx. 1.3 miles)			I-287 (Exit 53). Proceed west on (Paterson) Hamburg Turnpike .34 miles. Right on Brant Ln. Railroad trestle below Appelt Park is the upstream boundary.	
Pequest River** (Warren) Conrail Railroad bridge, located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Road, downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge (approx. 1.4 miles)			Rt. 31 to Rt. 46 E, approx. 4 mi. to Pequest Trout Hatchery; paved parking lot.	

** These streams are wholly or partially located within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone.

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

Catch and Release Areas

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	Restrictions
Jan. 1–Dec. 31 Fishing allowed year-round		Catch and release all trout	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All trout must be released immediately and unharmed. A person may not have any trout in their possession. 2. Only artificial lures and flies may be used. 3. Barbless hooks only, with no more than a total of three hook points. 4. Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 5. Fishing is allowed during the spring in-season stocking closures which apply to the rivers.
Catch and Release Waterbody (County)	Driving Directions		
Big Flat / Flat Brook (Sussex) Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of 4.2 miles, including the portion known as the Blewett Tract.	Upper boundary: Rt. 206 bridge, approx. 1.6 miles north of entrance to Stokes State Forest (Coursen Road). Lower boundary: Rt. 206 north, app. 1 mile past Stokes State Forest entrance, turn left on Rt. 560. At Layton bear left on Bevans Rd. (Rt. 640) towards Walpack. Continue south 3.4 miles (NPS Rd 615), left onto Fish and Wildlife Rd. to Roy Bridge.		
Raritan S/Br.—Ken Lockwood Gorge (Hunterdon) Section of S. Br. within the Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (approx. 2.2 miles).	Ken Lockwood Gorge — Road in gorge is closed to through traffic. Route 31 to Rt. 513. Upper boundary: Turn right at Hoffman's Crossing Rd., take first right after bridge. Lower boundary: Turn right onto Silverthorne-Cokesbury Rd., turn left after crossing river. Park only in designated areas.		

Wild Trout Streams

NATIVE BROOK TROUT STREAMS (Brook Trout Dominant)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release	April 9 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing allowed year-round • Artificial only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless • Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	No min. size			
Brown Trout	No min. size			

- **Beatty's Brook** (Lebanon Twp.)
- **Bear Swamp Brook** (Mahwah Twp.)
- **Hickory Run** (Lebanon Twp.)
- **Lake Ames Tributary** (Picatinny Arsenal boundary to Lake Ames, Rockaway Twp.)
- **Primrose Brook** (Harding Twp.)
- **Raritan River S/Br.** (Budd Lake dam to dam approx. 400 feet above Flanders-Drakestown Rd., Mt. Olive Twp.)
- **Rinehart Brook** (Hacklebarney State Park, Chester Twp.)
- **Rocky Run** (Lebanon Twp.)
- **Stephensburg Brook** (Washington Twp.)
- **Stony Brook** (Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Twp.)
- **Trout Brook** (Hacklebarney State Park, Chester Twp.)

WILD TROUT STREAMS (Multiple wild trout species present)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release in Zone	April 9 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing allowed year-round • Artificial only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless • Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	9"			
Brown Trout	9"			

- **Brass Castle Creek** (Washington Twp.)
- **Dismal Brook** (Mendham Twp.)
- **Dunnfield Creek** (Worthington State Forest)
- **Flanders Brook** (Mt. Olive Twp.)
- **India Brook** (source to Mountainside Rd., Mendham Twp.)
- **Indian Grove Brook** (Bernardsville Twp.)
- **Ledgewood Brook** (Roxbury Twp.)
- **Lomerson Brook** (also known as Herzog Brook) (Tewksbury Twp.)
- **Merrill Creek** (Merrill Creek Reservoir Dam to Pohatcong Ck., Stewartsville)
- **Raritan River S/Br.** [dam approx. 400 feet above Flanders-Drakestown Rd. to dam 200 ft above Schooleys Mtn. Rd. (Rt. 517), Long Valley]
- **Stony Brook** (Washington Twp. Morris)
- **Teetertown Brook** (Washington Twp./Lebanon Twp.)
- **Turkey Brook** (Mt. Olive Twp.)
- **Van Campens Brook** (source to upper waterfall in Van Campens Glen, Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
- **West Brook** (source downstream to Windbeam Club property, Ringwood Twp.)
- **Whippany River** (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.)
- **Willoughby Brook** (also known as Buffalo Hollow Bk.) (Lebanon Twp.)

WILD BROWN TROUT ENHANCEMENT STREAMS (Brown Trout dominant, other wild trout species may be present)

Species	Minimum Size	Season	Daily Limit	Gear
Brook Trout	Catch & Release in Zone*	April 9 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 15 Catch and Release at all other times, year-round	2 Brown or Rainbow Trout combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing allowed year-round • Artificial only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless • Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited
Rainbow Trout	9"			
Brown Trout	12"			

- **Beaver Brook** (Town of Clinton/Clinton Twp.)
- **Burnett Brook** (Chester/Mendham Twp.)
- **Cold Brook** (Tewksbury Twp.)
- **Hakihokake Creek** (also known as Little York Bk. — source to Little York-Mount Pleasant Rd, Little York)
- **Jackson Brook** (source to Hedden Park Lake Mine Hill Twp.)
- **Mill Brook** (Randolph Twp.)
- **Passaic River** (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville Twp.)
- **Pequanock River** (Oak Ridge Rd. (Newark Watershed) to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesburg Res. and from Rt. 23 at Smoke Rise to the Rt. 23 at Smith Mills, Kinnelon Twp.)
- **Rockaway Creek N/Br.** (Tewksbury Twp.)
- **Saddle River*** (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River Borough)
- **Spring Mills Brook** (Holland Twp.)
- **Van Campens Brook** (upper waterfall in Van Campens Glen, located approx. 0.8 miles upstream of Old Mine Road, to Delaware River, Del. Water Gap Nat. Rec. Area)
- **Wanaque River** (Wanaque Reservoir dam downstream to Wanaque Ave., Pompton Lakes Borough)

* Saddle River is outside the Brook Trout Conservation Zone therefore a 9 inch limit for brook trout applies. and a daily limit of 2 trout in total (Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout combined).

Trout Lakes

TROPHY TROUT LAKES

Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren)	Brown & Rainbow Trout (and their hybrids) and Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Open year round	15 inches	2 combined
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 inches	2
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir (Hunterdon)	Brown & Rainbow Trout (and their hybrids)	Open year round	15 inches	2 combined
		Jan. 1–Sept. 15	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1
	Lake Trout	Sept. 16–Nov. 30	Catch and release only	
		Dec. 1–Dec. 31	15 to less than 24 inches AND greater than or equal to 24 inches	6 AND 1

HOLDOVER TROUT LAKES

Waterbody (County)	Species	Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Clinton Reservoir (Passaic) Lake Aeroflex* (Sussex) Lake Wawayanda* (Sussex) Sheppard Lake (Passaic) Tilcon Lake* (Morris) White Lake (Warren)	Brown & Rainbow Trout and their hybrids	Jan. 1–March 20	9 inches	2
		March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 9 at 8 a.m.–May 31	9 inches	4
		June 1–Dec. 31	9 inches	2
	Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	Jan. 1–March 20	12 inches	2
		March 21–April 9 at 8 a.m.	Catch and release only	
		April 9 at 8 a.m.–Dec. 31	12 inches	2

*Stocked with salmon

Brook Trout Conservation Zone

All Brook Trout caught within the zone must be immediately released



Trout Stocked Water

NJ Fishing license required
NJ Trout stamp required for trout fishing

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Una estampilla de trucha de NJ es necesaria para pescar trucha

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Fish Identification

NEW JERSEY FRESHWATER FISHES



Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Lake Trout



Landlocked Atlantic Salmon



Northern Pike



Muskellunge



Chain Pickerel



Redfin Pickerel



Walleye



White Perch



Yellow Perch



Striped Bass



Hybrid Striped Bass



White Sucker



Common Carp

Illustrations: Duane Raver/USFWS



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redbreast Sunfish



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill Sunfish



White Crappie



Black Crappie



Brown Bullhead

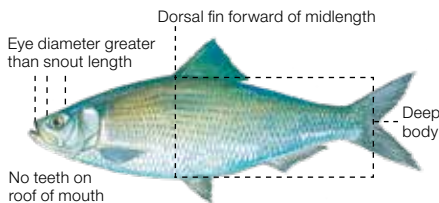


Channel Catfish

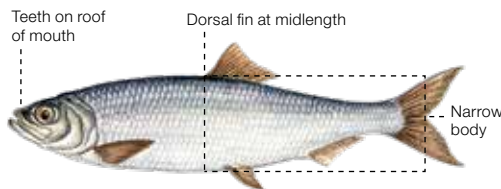


White Catfish

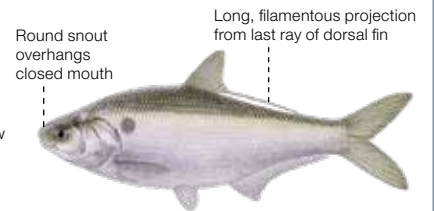
Herring



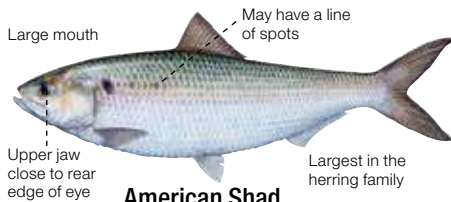
Alewife



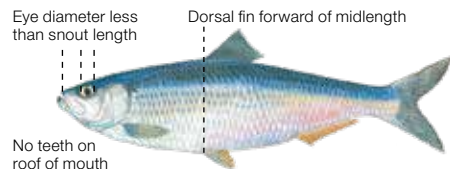
Atlantic Herring



Gizzard Shad



American Shad



Blueback Herring











Hickory Shad

Alewife, American Shad, Blueback Herring and Hickory Shad illustrations ©Duane Raver; Atlantic Herring illustration ©Victor Young/NH. Fish and Game Department; Gizzard Shad illustration courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ©2012.






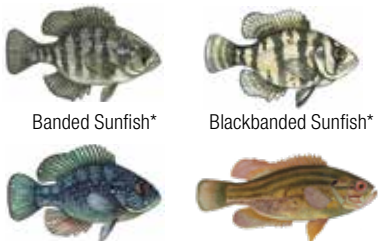
Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 21 to April 9, 2022 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 14–19 for complete lists and exceptions. Regulations in red are new this year. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 24–26.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS				
	Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	Statewide (exceptions below)	12 inches	5 combined
Largemouth Bass		Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware lakes; Splitrock Reservoir	15 inches	3 combined
		Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake	15 inches	2 combined
Smallmouth Bass				
NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE*				
	Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Statewide	Northern Pike: 24 inches	2
Northern Pike		Statewide (exceptions below)	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	1 combined
		Trophy Muskie Waters: Echo Lake Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong & Monksville Reservoir	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 44 inches	
Muskellunge				
*IMPORTANT: trout may not be used as bait in the Pequest River drainage.				
CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL				
	Open year round	Statewide	15 inches	5 combined
Chain Pickerel				
WALLEYE				
	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	18 inches	3
Walleye				
STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
	March 1–Dec. 31	Statewide Non-offset circle hook required when fishing with bait (see page 8)	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
Striped Bass				
HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16 inches	2
Hybrid Striped Bass	March 1–Dec. 31	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	One @ 28" to < 38"	1

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
AMERICAN SHAD				
 American Shad	Open Year Round Season Closed in all other fresh waters	Delaware River Mainstem (see regulations on page 24)	—	3
CHANNEL CATFISH				
 Channel Catfish	Open year round	Statewide	12 inches	5
CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)				
 Crappie	Open year round	Statewide	8 inches	10 combined
SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS				
 Rock Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see below for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin, Pumpkinseed and all other species with no specified creel limit. 	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	25 combined
		Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
			Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10
		Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH				
 Banded Sunfish* Blackbanded Sunfish* Bluespotted Sunfish* Mud Sunfish	Closed	Statewide	Protected	0
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 27 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see <i>Baitfish Regulations</i> (page 27).	Open year round Exceptions In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 9 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 21 to June 15.	Statewide	No minimum Exception American Eel: 9 inches	35 combined

Delaware River

2022 REGULATIONS

Bill Klimas

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 8	12 inches	5 combined
	April 9–June 10	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
	June 11–Dec. 31	12 inches	5 combined
Eel, American	Open year round	9 inches	25
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	Closed	—	—
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	40 inches	1
Pickrel, Chain	Open year round	12 inches	5
Pike, Northern	Open year round	24 inches	2
Shad, American*	Open year round	No minimum	3
Shad, Hickory	Closed	—	—
Striped Bass & Hybrids** (upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
Striped Bass & Hybrids** (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–30	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
	June 1–Dec. 31		
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	Closed	—	—
Trout	April 2 at 8 a.m.–Oct. 15	No minimum	5
Walleye	Open year round	18 inches	3
Channel Catfish	Open year round	12 inches	5
All Other Freshwater Species	Open year round	No minimum	25
Baitfish	Open year round	No minimum	50

Regulations in red are new this year.

* Due to serious declines in American Shad numbers, the taking of American Shad, except for the Delaware River, is prohibited.

** Non-offset circle hooks required when fishing with bait. Pennsylvania allows anglers to harvest a daily limit of two striped bass measuring 21 to less than 24 inches for a two month period from April 1 through May 31 from the Calhoun St. Bridge in Trenton downstream to the Pennsylvania state line. New Jersey still has a closed season. Anglers fishing the Delaware River from the New Jersey shoreline, or returning to New Jersey by boat and/or car in April and May must abide by New Jersey's striped bass regulations. Possession of striped bass in New Jersey is illegal during this time period. **Anglers should be aware that there are differing size limits and seasons for striped bass for each of the three states bordering the Delaware River. Anglers must obey the regulations for the particular state where they land (catch) striped bass.**

Fishing The Delaware River

Regulation Notices

The Delaware River is a boundary water shared by Pennsylvania and New Jersey with each state's border generally following the centerline of the river. Although the majority of the fishing regulations enacted by both states are identical, there are some distinct differences. Anglers fishing this river must be aware of each state's fishing regulations.

Regardless of an angler's residency or point of boat launching, all are required to comply with the regulations of the state in which they are fishing. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the New Jersey shoreline must comply with the New Jersey fishing regulations. An angler fishing—or in possession of fish—between the centerline of the river and the Pennsylvania shoreline must comply with the Pennsylvania fishing regulations.

The reciprocal agreement regarding fishing licenses remains in effect and anglers may continue to fish from shoreline to shoreline in the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey using either state's fishing license. Information on each state's fishing regulations can be found at www.fishandboat.com and NJFishandWildlife.com. It is incumbent upon anglers to determine in which state they are currently fishing, taking into account that in areas where the river splits, such as around islands, the boundary is clearly and legally defined to one side of the island or another.

All anglers are reminded to comply with each state's marine registry requirements when angling for or catching anadromous species such as striped bass, river herring or shad in the tidal portions of the Delaware River.

- New Jersey and Pennsylvania fishing licenses are both recognized when fishing the Delaware River from a boat or either shoreline. This applies to the main stem of the river only.

- Anglers may launch a boat from either shore and on return, may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made.
- No more than **three** rods, each with one line, or two hand lines—or one of each—may be used. No more than three single hooks or three treble hooks per line.
- **To reduce striped bass release mortality, non-offset (inline) circle hooks must be used when fishing for striped bass with bait in all waters.**
- **The use of crayfish, clams, mussels, reptiles or amphibians as bait is prohibited within the Delaware Water Gap Natural Recreation Area, unless it is a commercially produced, preserved and packaged product.**
- Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take carp, catfish, shad and suckers except within 825 feet of an eel weir. A valid fishing license is required.
- Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold. **Alewife or Blueback Herring may not be taken at any time.**
- A Delaware fishing license is required for anglers aged 16 and over fishing the Delaware Bay and Delaware River between the upstream tip of Artificial Island and the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line. In that section of the river, the Delaware state boundary extends to the New Jersey shoreline. However, when fishing from shore in New Jersey along that section of the river, a Delaware fishing license is not required. Delaware fishing license information can be found at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/>.
- A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at Fish and Wildlife's website, NJFishandWildlife.com, under Freshwater Fishing.
- Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$10.70. For online ordering information visit nj.gov/drbc/basin/recreation/.
- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at www.nps.gov/dewa.

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2022 REGULATIONS

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–June 15	Catch and release only	
	June 16–Dec. 1	12 inches	5 combined
	Dec. 1–Dec. 31	Catch and release only	
Catfish, Channel	Open year round	12 inches	5
Crappie, Black & White	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	44 inches	1
Perch, Yellow	Open year round	No minimum	50
Pickrel, Chain	Open year round	15 inches	5
Sunfish	Open year round	No minimum	50 combined
Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28	18 inches	3
	March 1–April 30	Catch and release only	
	May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
Herring, Alewife (landlocked) and blueback	Open year round	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to Greenwood Lake upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the lake's shoreline by any mechanism and may not be sold.
All Other Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit

- New York and New Jersey fishing licenses are both recognized anywhere on the lake or along the shoreline.
- Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day.
- In compliance with New York regulations, only certified virus-free baitfish may be transported to, or used on, the portion of Greenwood Lake owned by the State of New York. Anglers are urged to use only certified virus-free baitfish when fishing any portion of Greenwood Lake.
- Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, sucker, herring, catfish and eel is permitted. **Crossbows are NOT allowed at Greenwood Lake.** A valid fishing license is required.
- No more than five tip-ups and two hand-held devices may be used when ice fishing. All devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

2022 New Jersey Musky School

You don't want to miss the annual Musky School offered by Muskies Inc., now on Greenwood Lake!

Learn how to catch these elusive fish. This course offers informative tips and techniques to help any musky angler—beginner to experienced angler—catch more muskies.

Learn from our seasoned veteran anglers. In the morning, classroom-style sessions will orient anglers on locations to fish, forage base, lure presentations, fishing tactics and more. Later in the day, participants will be on the water in a fully-equipped boat to pursue muskies with a personal instructor. This 6-hour course includes a shore lunch. This is a catch and release event. Muskies Inc. is a non-profit organization. This is a fundraising event. All proceeds benefit the New Jersey musky fishery.



May 21, 2022 on Greenwood Lake

Fee: \$385 includes one-year membership to Muskies Inc. Contact Ralph C. via e-mail at muskyschool@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.MuskiesInc.org and www.mi22.com. Like us on Facebook at **Muskies Inc Chapter 22-New Jersey**.



Matt Teter caught this 42-inch fish at Musky School 2021.

See separate regulations for Delaware River (page 24).

For marine waters, see the *New Jersey Marine Digest*. Regulations in red are new this year.

Baitfish Regulations

BAITFISH SPECIES

Baitfish species: American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see below.

Season	Location	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Open year round Exception: In trout stocked waters baitfish may be taken only with hook and line: from April 9 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 21 to June 15.	Statewide (fresh waters)	No minimum size Exception American eel: 9 inches	35 per day, species combined
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	All freshwater streams, rivers and marine waters	CLOSED	Possession, take or attempt to take herring PROHIBITED
	Freshwater lakes in Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties and Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon)	6 inches maximum	35 Any unused herring must be returned to the water upon conclusion of the angler's fishing trip. Herring may not be transported away from the shoreline of these lakes by any mechanism. They may not be sold.
	All other freshwater lakes (regardless of ownership)	CLOSED	Only purchased herring, no greater than 6 inches, may be possessed. Receipt of purchase, dated within 7 days, must be in possession.

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and residents 70 years or older) may take baitfish in fresh waters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the fresh waters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact 908-236-2118 for application information.

GEAR	GEAR DESCRIPTION
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds and lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.
Minnow Trap	Not larger than 24 inches in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2 inches in diameter.
Umbrella Net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip Net	Not more than 24 inches in diameter; may be used only for alewife or blueback herring.
Cast Net	No greater than 8 feet in diameter; may be used only in streams that are not trout-stocked or special regulation trout areas (may not be used in lakes).
Hook and Line	Maximum of nine single hooks or three hooks with three burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only three single hooks are permitted.

Turtle and Frog Regulations

SPECIES	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Snapping Turtle	April 1–May 14 July 1–October 31	Statewide	12 inches	1 per day
Bull Frog and Green Frog	January 1–March 31 July 1–December 31	Statewide	No minimum	15 per day, combined

MEANS OF TAKE

Snapping turtles may only be taken in fresh waters of the state. **See page 28 for established fishing license boundary lines that designate between fresh and marine waters.** Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, traps, hook and line, dip nets (not more than 24 inches in diameter), or by hand. They may NOT be sold unless taken under a Commercial Harvest Permit. Bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken in numbers greater than the daily limit under a Commercial Harvest Permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. The commercial harvest of snapping turtles is closed to new harvesters. Existing harvesters may contact NJFWFish@dep.nj.gov for application information.

Motor Boat Registration and Title Requirements

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Registration

Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered also.
- **Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.**
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which **need not** be registered:

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally-approved numbering system from another state
- Ship's lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

Boat Operator License (MVC)

An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

For More Information:

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
888-486-3339 toll free in NJ or
609-292-6500 from out-of-state
nj.gov/mvc/vehicles/boating.htm

Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)

A boat safety certificate (from an **approved** boat safety course; see NJSP website, below) is required to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

609-882-2000
www.njsp.org/marine-services/

Fishing License Boundary Lines

2022 REGULATIONS

A fishing license is required to fish the fresh waters of the state. Locations listed below mark the change from salt water (license not required) to fresh water. A fishing license is required at—and upstream of—these locations. Snapping turtles may only be taken from fresh waters of the state.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Absecon Creek—Dam at Lower Atlantic City Reservoir
Great Egg Harbor River—Power lines at confluence of Gravelly Run
Middle River—None—all saline water
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Nacote Creek—Port Republic dam
Patcong Creek—Bargaintown Lake dam
South River—Power lines immediately below Rt. 50
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Branch)

BERGEN COUNTY

Hackensack River—Cedar Lane Bridge between Hackensack and Teaneck
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Required whole length

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assisunk Creek—Required whole length
Bass River State—Fir Bridge on Stage Rd. in Bass River State Forest
Batsto River—Required whole length
Blacks Creek—Required whole length
Crosswicks Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Required whole length
Mullica River—Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Pennsauken Creek—Required whole length
Pompeston Creek—Required whole length
Rancocas Creek—Required whole length
Swedes Run—Required whole length
Wading River—Charcoal Landing, Chips Folly Campground

CAMDEN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Bidwells Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Swamp Creek—None—all saline water
Dennis Creek—None—all saline water
East Creek—100 ft. below East Creek Lake dam, Eldora
Tuckahoe River—First northerly tributary downstream of lower Rt. 49 bridge (McNeals Br.)
West Creek—100 feet below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Andrews Creek—None—all saline water
Back Creek—None—all saline water
Cedar Creek—100 ft. downstream of Cedar Lake dam
Cohansey River—Rt. 49 bridge at Bridgeton
Dividing Creek—Rt. 555 bridge
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Fortescue Cr./Branch of Oranoken Cr.—None—all saline water
Manumuskin Creek—Required whole length
Maurice River—Mouth of Manumuskin Creek near Port Elizabeth
Menantico Creek—Required whole length
Mill Creek—Tributary of Cohansey—Rt. 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek—S. side of bridge on Weathersby Rd.
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)—Rt. 553 north of Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek—Whitcar Mill, North of Beaver dam
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Riggins Ditch—Rt. 47 bridge

Sow and Pigs Branch Nantuxent—None—all saline water
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Creek—None—all saline water
West Creek—100 ft. below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

ESSEX COUNTY

Passaic River—Erie Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Big Timber Creek—Required whole length
Delaware River—Commodore Barry bridge at Bridgeport
Mantua Creek—Required whole length
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 bridge
Raccoon Creek—Required whole length
Woodbury Creek—Required whole length

HUDSON COUNTY

Hackensack River—None—all saline water
Hudson River—None—all saline water
Passaic River—Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny

HUNTERDON COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MERCER COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Cheesequake Creek—Dam at Cheesequake Lake, Cheesequake State Park
Lawrence Brook—N.J. Turnpike bridge, East Brunswick
Raritan River—Landing Lane bridge, New Brunswick
South River—Rt. 527 bridge (New Brunswick Old Bridge Tpk.)
Woodbridge River—N.J. Turnpike bridge

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Black Creek—Spillway at Ocean Rd.
Branchport Creek—Mouth of Turtle Mill Brook
Deal Lake—Top of dam
Hockhockson (Pine) Brook—Garden State Parkway northbound bridge
Little Silver Creek—Little Silver Creek Brook
Manasquan River—Bennetts bridge, Manasquan Wildlife Management Area
Matawan Creek—Lefferts Lake dam
Oceanport Creek—Mouth of Husky Brook
Parkers Creek—Mouth of Parkers Creek Brook
Shark River—Remsen Mills Rd.
Swimming River—Swimming River Rd. bridge
Wreck Pond Creek—Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek—Rt. 88 bridge
Cedar Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Cedar Run—Rt. 9 bridge
Dinner Point Creek—None—all saline water
Double Creek—None—all saline water
Forked River—All branches Rt. 9
Gunning River—None—all saline water
Jakes Branch—Above Atlantic City Blvd.
Jeffreys Creek—Ocean Gate Rd. to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek—Rt. 549 bridge

Lake of the Lilies—Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek—Washington St. bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek—Dams for Manahawkin WMA impoundments bayside
Metedeconk River—Rt. 70 bridge, Laurelton
Mill Creek—Mouth of Creek at lagoons in Beach Haven West
Mill Creek—Pine Beach—Ocean Gate Road
Oyster Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
Parkers Run—None—all saline water
Potters Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek—None—all saline water
Stouts Creek S. Br.—Bayside East Parkway
Toms River—Garden State Parkway, northbound bridge
Tuckerton Creek—Dam at Rt. 9 bridge
Waretown Creek—Rt. 9 bridge
West Creek—Rt. 9 bridge

PASSAIC COUNTY

License required on all waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek—Rt. 540 bridge at Alloway
Black Ditch—None—all saline water
Delaware River—None—all saline water
Fishing Creek—None—all saline water
Hope Creek—None—all saline water
Mad Horse Creek—None—all saline water
Mill Creek—None—all saline water
Oldmans Creek—Rt. 295 southbound bridge
Salem River—Dupont dam near Cedar Crest Manor
Salem Canal—Dam at Deepwater
Stow Creek—Buckhorn Rd. bridge, Jericho
Straight Ditch—None—all saline water

SOMERSET COUNTY

License required on all waters

SUSSEX COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

Elizabeth River—West Grand St., Elizabeth
Great Ditch—None—all saline water
Morses Creek—Old Morses Mill Rd.
Oyster Creek—None—all saline water
Peddie Ditch—None—all saline water
Piles Creek—None—all saline water
Rahway River—Lawrence St. (Rt. 514), Rahway

WARREN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

Important Footnotes

1. Absence of a river, creek, brook or other waterway from this list does not make it exempt from requiring a license to fish the fresh waters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.

Regulations in red are new this year.

REGULATIONS FOR USE of wildlife management areas (WMAs) are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

The following are prohibited: camping, swimming, picnicking, airsoft or paintball gunning, geocaching, dumping, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, alcoholic beverages and fires.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife Management Areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities.

Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife approved activities.

Motor Vehicles

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on roads under the control of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off-road vehicles, ATVs, trailbikes or snowmobiles is prohibited on all wildlife management areas unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife. E-bikes are allowed up to 750 watts. For mountain bike and paddleboard regulations, visit NJFishandWildlife.com/wma_permits.htm.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, air gun (.177 and .22) and modern rifle ≤ .30 caliber rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to posted regulations at the training area. Other target practice is allowed only with permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. For range information, visit our website: See *Hunter Training Areas*, NJFishandWildlife.com/ranges.htm.

Accessible Fishing Sites



For people with disabilities, visit: NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm

An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired.

All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.

Field Trials

Permits for use of wildlife management areas for running of field trials may be granted by Fish and Wildlife. Apply for a permit by calling 609-259-2132.

Dog Training and Exercising

Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30. All dogs must be properly licensed. Select WMAs with designated dog training areas also permit dogs to be exercised or trained from May 1 to Aug. 31. For more information, see the *New Jersey Hunting and Trapping Digest* or call 609-984-0547.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife with the exception of Union Lake, where outboard motors not exceeding 10 hp. may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Apply online at <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales>. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding, not covered by a pack or other equipment. For more information on horseback riding permits, call 609-259-2132.

Fishing Tournament

Any club or organization that would like to use a New Jersey wildlife management area for fishing tournaments must apply for and secure a permit from Fish and Wildlife. No fee is required. Applications will be accepted in January at Fish and Wildlife's Central Region Office, One Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 at 609-223-6076.


Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side

rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy.

The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site, <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales>.

Residents 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

1. Round Valley Angler Access
2. Assunpink
3. Dennis Creek
4. Tuckahoe
5. Mad Horse Creek
6. Union Lake
7. Menantico Ponds
8. Prospertown Lake 

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

Bivalve	856-785-1330
North Wildwood	609-522-0393
Atlantic City.....	609-441-3586
Burlington	609-387-1221
Ocean.....	609-296-5807
Point Pleasant	732-899-5050
Monmouth Station	732-842-5171
Lake Hopatcong	973-663-3400
Newark Bay.....	973-578-8173

Create Your Own WMA Map

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a Web-based tool called NJ-GeoWeb. Those with Internet access can create maps for any Wildlife Management Area. NJ-GeoWeb provides a wealth of other environmental information, too!

This interactive program is updated on a regular basis so most of the latest information is available.

To access NJ-GeoWeb, go to the DEP's website at nj.gov/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm. Click on "Launch NJ - GeoWeb, then GeoWeb Profile.

Those without Internet access can request a specific wildlife management area by calling 609-984-0547.



Freshwater Fisheries Forums and Trout Meeting

Fisheries Forum —Virtual

February 26, 2022; 10 a.m.

Trout Meeting — Virtual

March 12, 2022; 10 a.m.

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

For more information or to pre-register (helpful, but not required) please call 908-236-2118 or send an email to NJFWFish@dep.nj.gov. Emails should include name, address, phone number and number of people attending.

Presented by NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Go to njfishandwildlife.com/bfwf_forums.htm for updates.



Operation Game Thief

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!

1-855-OGT-TIPS

24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

Call OGT to report:

- Negligent use of firearms
- Over the limits for game and fish
- Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

It's Free. It's Confidential. You May Be Eligible for a Reward.

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.



Speargun Case Nets \$880 in Penalties

On May 21, 2020, Conservation Police Officer Tyler Hausamann responded to a complaint of illegal fishing at the Paulina Dam section of the Paulinskill River in Blairstown, Warren County. Once there, CPO Hausamann observed several people near the dam. One person was fishing with rod and reel while others began to pack up. Suddenly, someone started yelling and congratulating another person who surfaced in the dam's spillway.



An assortment of illegally speared fish, Paulinskill River.

The man, who was wearing goggles and carried a speargun, held a large bass on the end of the spear. The fish went into a blue bucket as the group quickly tried to pack up and leave. Officer Hausamann stopped them before they had the chance.

The suspects denied having any fish, but Officer Hausamann recovered the blue bucket and speargun from one of the vehicles. Fourteen fish — a collection of rainbow trout, tiger trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass — were in the bucket. All but one fish had spear holes.

Seven summonses were issued for the violations, with penalties totaling \$880. The cited violations included: fishing without a valid license, possession of trout without a trout stamp, taking bass during closed season, taking undersize bass, taking trout over the limit and taking fish in an illegal manner.

CPO Tyler Hausamann/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife



Take me fishing!

The memories will last a lifetime.

New Jersey's FREE Freshwater Fishing Days

June 4 and Oct. 22, 2022

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has split the Free Fishing Days. The first will be held on June 4, 2022 during the summer as is traditional. This day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty. The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking on October 22, 2022 to bring attention to this great fishing opportunity. On these two days, only residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

Trout in the Classroom

(TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on



learning approach. More than 40,000 New Jersey students participate in the TIC program annually.

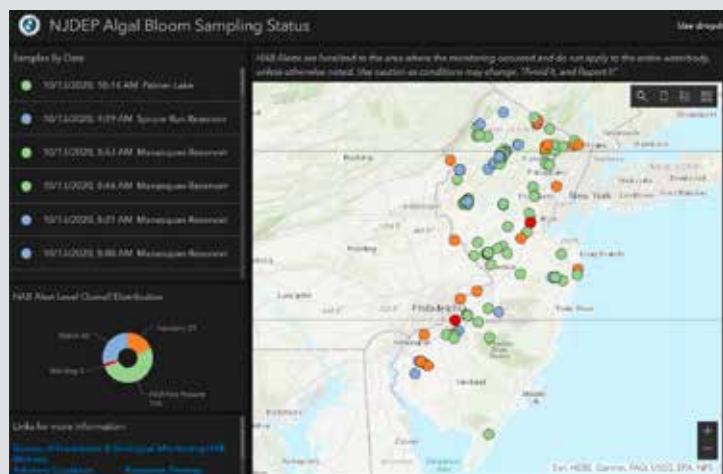
Schools receive trout eggs in October from our Pequest Trout Hatchery. Students hatch and raise the trout, monitor water quality, learn fish biology, anatomy and much more as part of this cross-curricular, hands-on format. At the end of the school year students release their fish into approved streams.

Trout in the Classroom is an exciting, inexpensive program enlivening year-round curricula nationwide. For more information about the TIC program, visit NJFishandWildlife.com/tic.htm.

Harmful Algal Bloom – Status Check

Stay up to date on the status of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in New Jersey waters with the NJDEP Algal Bloom Sampling Status site. The easy, interactive dashboard provides current sampling results, waterbody locations and important advisory information at your fingertips. Also included are links to important HAB-related resources and a place to report a suspected HAB.

Information is updated daily at noon. Stay informed about the presence of potentially harmful algal blooms to protect you and your pets. Visit nj.gov/dep/hab/ and click on the map in the center.



Your Stream, Your Watershed and Ways to Protect it

By Scott Collenburg,
Senior Fisheries Biologist

It is the unfortunate reality that aquatic ecosystems are one of the first to fall victim to poor land use practices and climate change. Due to continued human impacts, we know that these fragile habitats will continue to degrade unless wise decisions are made. When left unprotected, vital fish habitat is severely altered, often exceeding the biological tolerances of sensitive species.

Increases in water temperature, flood and drought frequency plus the introduction of pollutants are characteristics of these impaired systems. Whether climatic forces or a localized disturbance induces the degradation of water quality and habitat, these changes can be subtle at first and virtually invisible unless monitored closely. This was the impetus for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to implement a project aimed to identify coldwater refugia for native Brook Trout, New Jersey's only native trout.

Like their counterpart from Europe, the Brown Trout, their need for cold, clean water and sensitivity to change makes them the ultimate bioindicator, like a canary in the coalmine. This is why in 1968, Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries initiated the process of identifying and classifying New Jersey waters according to their suitability to support trout. Five years later, a classification system for New Jersey waters was developed.

It is the unfortunate reality that aquatic ecosystems are one of the first to fall victim to poor land use practices and climate change. Due to continued human impacts, we know that these fragile habitats will continue to degrade unless wise decisions are made. When left unprotected, vital fish habitat is severely altered, often exceeding the biological tolerances of sensitive species.

Although already in use by various programs within N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Fish and Wildlife's classification system was formally recognized in 1981 under the state's then newly adopted *Surface Water Quality Standards*. The Standards recognize these critical indicators of high-quality habitats, affording various protections to waters of exceptional ecological significance. New Jersey's naturally reproducing trout populations have been routinely monitored ever since.

Identifying Refuge and Impacts

As elevated water temperatures are a significant factor leading to the decline of native Brook Trout populations, monitoring efforts in recent years have focused on continuous temperature monitoring. Between 2018 and 2020, our Freshwater Fisheries staff has monitored summer temperatures in most locations that continue to support Brook Trout. Various metrics were employed to help understand thermal regimes and resiliency to warming of these areas.

As climate change projections predict increasing air temperatures, the effect on our state's coldwater resources is of particular concern. However, the results from this study paint a more optimistic picture for the future of Brook Trout than one might assume. Streams do not warm uniformly across space, as groundwater influences stream temperatures in headwater streams where Brook Trout are primarily found. Predicting future strongholds for Brook Trout will rely heavily on understanding the dynamics of groundwater inputs and stream temperature on a fine spatial scale.

The good news is, not all coldwater habitats should disappear, as some large-scale climate and stream models have predicted. However, this places urgency on the Division of Fish and Wildlife and our other partners throughout the state to identify and protect locations of coldwater refugia.

While temperature is considered one of the main determinants of fish distribution, it is only one piece of the puzzle in understanding how human impacts can influence the survival of our aquatic friends. Fish and Wildlife has documented temperature spikes indicative of stormwater impacts at 31 individual sites with this monitoring network. In 2019, it was determined that these patterns were significantly related to land use characteristics associated with human development. These relationships are no surprise, but we may not think about, or see, how these events affect fish.

What Do These Impacts Mean for Fish?

For instance, what happens to trout and other coldwater fish residing in a stream when a summer thunderstorm pelts the hot pavement and flows directly into your favorite trout stream? While fish have fins and can seek refuge, in many cases this opportunity does not exist due to the widespread magnitude of a warming event. This example also

highlights how fish are often uniquely vulnerable to negative impacts because they are confined to aquatic habitats where movement to alternative habitats is more restricted.

Continuing the rainwater example, when Brook Trout are exposed to temperatures above 68°F, they undergo stress that can be measured at a cellular level that can ultimately affect their survival. Chronic exposure to elevated temperatures can have drastic impacts on trout and other coldwater populations. This emphasizes the importance of a strong groundwater influence in the face of rising air temperatures and the groundwater's ability to provide a more consistent cold temperature regime, helping buffer trout from the harmful effects of temperature increase.

Temperature is merely one of the many concerns of stormwater. You may be asking, what else is being carried by stormwater? That's an excellent question, but the answer is confounded based on the location, timing and length of the storm. The best-designed stormwater systems to accommodate runoff aim to make the water percolate back into the aquifer or to follow the sewer conduit system leading to a wastewater plant prior to being released into the environment. Unfortunately, most stormwater systems lead directly into streams and lakes. A host of scientists are researching these impacts to understand what is happening to fish exposed to the cocktails of pollutants or toxicants that are washed into streams with each rain event, from which fish have no means to escape.

The effects of aquatic pollution are seemingly endless, from acute mortality, to developmental issues impacting sensory organs, not to mention the impacts on humans and other wildlife when these fish are consumed. Most trout anglers can relate to the sensitivity of aquatic invertebrates such as mayflies and understand the species' role as prey for trout, both of which are impacted by road runoff. Chloride from salt used to de-ice roads (which seems to be increasing in frequency) can wash into streams, rivers, and lakes, thereby inhibiting fish spawning.

This all sounds dire and daunting, especially at the individual level. So, what can you do as an angler, resident or neighbor looking to foster and share a healthier environment? No doubt a few questions and even some anxiety begins to bubble to the surface of our consciousness as we consider all the potential and reoccurring impacts.

Property owners can help by considering how water flows over their property and where it goes. Stormwater runoff is indeed created by surfaces that do not allow water to infiltrate into the ground, such as pavement and even highly compacted earthen surfaces. These are commonly referred to as impervious surfaces. Guides are available to help homeowners in developing a plan for their property, including recommendations such as rain gardens, rain barrels and installation of permeable hardscapes. An N.J. DEP Green Infrastructure website is found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/>.

Here are additional actions you can take to encourage others to become more knowledgeable and to help minimize impacts on your local waterway:



Senior Biologist Scott Collenburg checking a stream temperature logger.

- Use fertilizer and pesticides sparingly and never before a rainstorm.
- Mulch grass clippings into your lawn as a natural fertilizer instead of bagging them.
- Use a low phosphorous organic fertilizer.
- Minimize use of salt on driveways and walkways.
- Never dump anything down a storm drain.
- Maintain a *wide*, unmowed natural vegetative buffer (or mow only once a year) along any waterway, helping to slow rainwater runoff so it can permeate into the ground, trapping excess fertilizer and sediment from your lawn.
- Plant shade trees along waterways to reduce solar input to keep the water cool.
- Store compost, trash, firewood and other material away from any waterway.
- Maintain your car and prevent oil leaks that may travel onto the street and into the nearest storm drain.
- Choose to wash your car either at a car wash with a water reclaim system or at home while parked on the lawn, gravel or another *permeable* surface.

Take Action to Support Watershed Management

- NJDEP offers tools for teachers to integrate watershed management into their classroom and include free classroom presentations on water pollution through the Watershed Ambassadors Program, Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), and WaterSense programs for water conservation, stormwater lessons, and publications. Visit: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedrestoration/outreach.html>.
- Local watershed associations or groups are a great way to get involved locally and need volunteers to get much of their work done. Volunteering to collect water quality data, work on trails, or plant trees to shade waterways are just a few of the things you can sign up for and help protect your local watershed.
- Take a kid fishing! There is no better way to introduce youth to the outdoors and to get them to think about being a thoughtful steward of the environment.

Fishing Tournament

GOV. SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

DEP Action Line, 24 Hrs.

The Department has a toll-free telephone hotline number you can use to report environmental incidents, abuses, and complaints in New Jersey or impacting it.

877-WARN-DEP

877-927-6337

Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free 866.345.4455 HuntofaLifetime.org

Mark your calendar for the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 15, 2022

Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ

Enjoy a great day of surf fishing with family and friends at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.

The individual who catches the overall largest fish wins the "Governor's Award" and will have their name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently displayed at Island Beach State Park. Prizes are awarded to winners in a variety of age group and fish species categories.

All funds raised by the tournament go toward improving beach access, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment plus marine education and restoration projects.

The tournament is sponsored by NJDEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

For more information visit:

NJFishandWildlife.com/gsf.htm or call 609-748-4347



Courtesy Venuri/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Congratulations to Manasquan High School as the 2021 High School Team category winners!



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If you care about:

- Wise management of fish and wildlife populations
- Protection and enhancement of natural lands and waters
- Preservation of traditional outdoor sports

Then get involved!

- Stay informed on issues affecting NJ sportsmen and sportswomen
- Make an impact on outdoor issues
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- Have fun and participate in Federation-sponsored activities: jamborees, clay target shoots, tournaments, dinners, conventions, and more!

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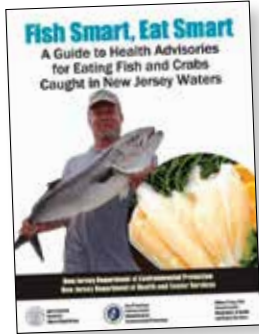
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NJSFSC • PO Box: 10173 • Trenton, NJ 08650

Join online at

www.njsfsc.org

Eating Fish And Crabs Caught In New Jersey Waters



Fishing is an enjoyable and relaxing recreation. Fish are an excellent source of protein and nutrients as part of a healthy, well-balanced diet. Many anglers enjoy cooking and eating their own catch. However, elevated levels of potentially harmful chemical contaminants such as dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, mercury and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) have been found in certain fish and crabs in some New Jersey waters. Fish consumption advisories guide citizens on safe consumption practices.

To reduce exposure to harmful chemical contaminants when preparing and eating the fish species taken from the identified waters, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided. The DEP encourages you to consult the Fish Smart-Eat Smart Fish Advisory Guide or FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org when making decisions about eating recreationally caught fish and crabs.


The current fish consumption advisories

consists of statewide, regional and water body-specific warnings for a variety of fish species and fish consumers. The New Jersey departments of Environmental Protection and Health and Senior Services have prepared "how to" electronic pamphlets on cleaning and cooking your catch to reduce your exposure to these harmful chemicals. These e-pamphlets are downloadable in multiple languages.

Do not eat fish or shellfish from a waterbody where a harmful algal bloom is present. For more information, see page 31.

For a complete list of state and federal marine fish consumption advisories visit: FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org

The fish consumption advisories and Fish Smart-Eat Smart website are updated periodically and are available online or from the Division of Science and Research at 609-940-4078 and through the Department of Health's Food and Drug Safety Program at 609-826-4935.

Check online for fish consumption advisories on the local water body in which you fish! Go to FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org 

NEW Interactive Map!

One click on the waterbody where you fish takes you to any current health advisories.

FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org



Instructors NEEDED!

Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Our Hunter Education Unit wants New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Call 856-629-0552

Leave your name and address to receive an application.

Or visit our website: NJFishandWildlife.com



Briana Merriell/NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

The most up-to-date regulations online.



 **eRegulations.com**

Hackettstown 110th Anniversary

By Craig Lemon, Hackettstown Hatchery Superintendent



Another decade of fish production at the Hackettstown Hatchery is in the books, yet it seems like only yesterday that the hatchery's centennial was celebrated.

Over the last ten years, the hatchery and its staff have dealt with several extreme weather events such as Superstorm Sandy (13-day power outage), Tropical Storm Isaias (rain and wind) and Winter Storm Orlena (30 inches of snow) plus a pandemic. As this story was being written, the flood gates on Trout Brook had to be opened after two back-to-back 5-inch rains fell from Hurricane Ida.

Since the Centennial Celebration in 2012, Hackettstown Hatchery staff have driven 167,000 miles and stocked more than 31 million fish, weighing a

total of 206,000 pounds. The hatchery has undergone numerous improvements, including ultraviolet water sterilization and alarm system upgrades, a green energy initiative to improve lighting, heating, and cooling in the intensive culture building and a new fueling station. Several new distribution trucks and a new boat were added to the fleet to safely transport both fish and our crew. A new 110-hp John Deere tractor has made a big difference in maintaining the miles of hatchery dirt roads and pond dikes. Major pond renovations (dredging and

grading) continue and are paramount to our successful operation.

Fish and Wildlife also negotiated a lease with Centenary University for one of our older buildings as a biology classroom and lab. The hatchery benefits from this relationship annually through the service of student interns.

Since 2013, Landlocked Atlantic Salmon have been acquired from Massachusetts' Roger Reed Salmon Hatchery in a trade for our surplus Northern Pike fingerlings. In return, New Jersey receives 6,000 five-inch salmon which are raised at Hackettstown to a catchable size. This program has produced 32,000 catchable-size salmon stocked across four waters. A historic state record was broken on June 2, 2018, by Runelvy Rodriguez, Lake Aeroflex, measuring 25¾ inches and weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz. Last fall, that record was broken by Joe Satkowski fishing Merrill Creek Reservoir, at 8 lbs. 10 oz.

Agency-wide, the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has increased our emphasis on marketing, branding and social media over the last decade. Many hatchery stocking trucks are wrapped with colorful and flashy fish decals and promotional slogans to raise awareness of the state fish stocking programs. Social media has become an important tool to relay information while allowing users to voice their opinions and post their catch.

So, what makes the Hackettstown Hatchery great? That's easy. It's the 110-year history — the employees, grounds, stories, records and photos. It's the relationship with the town and its residents, the university, faculty and students. It's the diversity of daily work assignments, as two days are never the same.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown Fish Hatchery is also great because of the dedication and ingenuity of staff, past and present. And naturally, it's the 15 fish species raised here — from minnows to muskies — for our anglers.

Fish Stocking Do's and Don'ts

Why should I get a Fish Stocking Permit?

It is the law! Before you consider stocking any fish in New Jersey, you must first obtain a fish stocking permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. It does not matter whether the pond is public or private, connected to, or isolated from, a neighboring water, or if the waterbody is stocked by the state or a private club. **A fish stocking permit is always required.**

An application and information can be found at NJFishandWildlife.com/fishperms.htm#stocking. The application fee is only \$2.

Only approved hatcheries will be authorized for stocking. Hatcheries are required to submit annual fish health information, thus minimizing the potential for the spread of disease.

Fish Stocking *Do's*

- **Do** establish your stocking goal, whether it is to supplement an existing population, create a unique opportunity or restore a fishery (dredging or dam repair project).
- **Do** know your waterbody. Most fish require particular conditions, so understand your waterbody's habitat and water quality. Factors to consider include waterbody size, depth and substrate, and water temperature, oxygen level, pH and flow.
- **Do** get permission from the waterbody owner, as their signature is required on the application.
- **Do** avoid delays in the processing of your application by first reviewing the nine simple guidelines listed at NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/fisheries_permitapp_info.pdf.

Fish Stocking *Don'ts*

- **Don't** purchase fish from a hatchery without obtaining a fish stocking permit.
- **Don't** transport fish from one waterbody to another.
- **Don't** assume your pond needs to be stocked, as most waters do not require stocking.
- **Don't** stock an invasive species (NJFishandWildlife.com/aquatic_invasives.htm).
- **Don't** assume common game species are harmless. Even they can cause ecological harm if introduced into the wrong locations.
- **Don't** release pet aquarium fish into a local waterway.

Stocking Programs Persevered Through the Pandemic

The COVID-19 Pandemic brought many challenges to our lives over the last two years. The Division of Fish and Wildlife appreciates your support while our hatcheries continued to operate without significant impact on the great fisheries that you enjoy. All pre-pandemic fish stocking targets are being met or surpassed. Anglers can rest assured that the future of freshwater fishing in New Jersey is as bright as ever.

On March 15, 2020, the Hackettstown Hatchery crew had just completed the Northern Pike broodstock collection and was preparing for Walleye and Muskie egg collection when New Jersey announced the closure of state offices, directing most staff to work remotely.

Hold on. A hatchery is a fish farm. Like all farms, the animals (fish) must be fed, cleaned and cared for 24/7/365. Hatchery staff instantly adapted to the changing circumstances with innovation and perseverance.

Fingerling Hybrid Striped Bass stocked during the pandemic will provide great fishing for years to come.



The pandemic required social distancing protocols that would prevent further broodstock collection. How could we move forward with our fish rearing programs? Solution: By coordinating with our colleagues at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, New Jersey traded our surplus Northern Pike fingerlings and Channel Catfish eggs in return for Pennsylvania's surplus Walleye eggs and Muskie fingerlings. Smart and efficient decisions like this helped to maintain hatchery production successes. Ultimately, over 1.6 million warmwater fish were stocked throughout late summer and into the fall of 2020. Comparable actions in 2021 resulted in 3.2 million warmwater fish being distributed for anglers.

Faced with similar challenges — and with raceways full of several year classes of trout — the Pequest Trout Hatchery continued to raise Rainbow Trout for all annual stocking programs. Over 500,000 trout were stocked before Opening Day during 2020 and 2021, compared with the 183,000 typically stocked during a regular pre-season. A total of 589,390 trout were stocked in the spring of 2020 and 597,150 in 2021. The annual spring baseline of 570,000 was exceeded in both of these pandemic years.

An accelerated stocking schedule allowed staff to move trout out of the raceways, onto trucks and into New Jersey waters as quickly as possible to reduce the number of loading days, thus minimizing close interactions among staff and with the public. If a virus outbreak were to occur among our staff, that would adversely affect the tightly orchestrated production cycle, putting future stocking seasons at risk.

Staff wore masks and remained socially distanced, including driving in separate vehicles for each stocking run. The decision to modify the season and not disclose specific stocking dates for individual waters was to protect staff and to reduce the density of anglers at any one place or time.

Our strategy of opening the Trout Season for catch and release prior to the usual Opening Day was designed to create a "soft opener" whereby anglers who are not focused on *harvesting* fish would get out early, thus reducing the concentration of anglers typically seen on the opener. Our early Catch and Release Season coincided with New York's opener, thus encouraging in-state angling at a time when interstate travel was discouraged.

This massive effort was carried out by dedicated staff from across our agency, especially those who raise and stock the fish. Anglers had mixed responses to the temporary changes. Some longed for the traditional program and a sense of normalcy while many expressed gratitude for the abundance of trout and the early Catch and Release Season. Overall, most anglers appeared to understand the issues, were grateful for the opportunity to get out and fish and were thrilled with the abundance of trout — not only during the pre-season, but also well into late May.

At the time this passage is being penned, pandemic-related uncertainties remain. One thing you can count on is that New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife continues to work for you, the angler, to ensure plentiful and healthy fisheries — now and for future generations.

HATCHERY-SUPPORTED FISHERIES

Courtesy of the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery 2021 production highlights.

Muskellunge: 10–12" (7,641)

- DOD Lake (228)
- Echo Lake Reservoir (420)
- Furnace Lake (80)
- Greenwood Lake (2,882)
- Lake Hopatcong (2,406)
- Little Swartswood Lake (143)
- Mercer Lake (400)
- Monksville Reservoir (960)
- Mountain Lake (122)

Northern Pike: 6" (20,181)

- Budd Lake (1,880)
- Farrington Lake (2,900)
- Passaic River (3,420)
- Pompton Lake (3,068)
- Pompton River (2,463)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (6,450)

Surplus stocked in: Cranberry and Deal Lake

Walleye: 2" (95,360); 4" (24,262)

- Canistota Reservoir (7,000)
- Greenwood Lake (38,794)
- Lake Hopatcong (53,748)
- Monksville Reservoir (10,100)
- Swartswood Lake (9,980)

Surplus stocked in: Delaware River

Hybrid Striped Bass: 4" (48,583)

- Lake Hopatcong (26,880)
- Manasquan Reservoir (7,200)
- Spruce Run Reservoir (14,503)

Landlocked Salmon: 14" (3,199)

- Lake Aeroflex (579)
- Merrill Creek Reservoir (650)
- Tilcon Lake (510)
- Wawayanda Lake (1,460)

Channel Catfish: 6" (13,975)

- Nine waters

Channel Catfish: 12"

- Sixty-one waters (10,327)

Channel Catfish: 18"

- Twenty-five waters (1,005)

Plus thousands of black crappie, bluegill, fathead minnows and golden shiners in over 100 waterbodies throughout the state!

Raised with pride at the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery.



TROUT STOCKING

Raised with pride at New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery

Spring

- Over 183,000 released for Opening Day — April 9, 2022
- Over 570,000 Rainbow Trout (avg. 10.5 inches)
- Spring stocking begins March 21, 2022
- An additional 8,000 breeders 15–21 inches (3–6 pounds)
- 85 streams and 87 lakes stocked statewide
- All 21 counties stocked
- Most waterbodies stocked at least 3 times
- Stocking continues for seven weeks following Opening Day!

Winter

- November 21 and 22, 2022
- All large two year olds, measuring 15–16 inches
- Over 4,000 trout
- 18 lakes and ponds
- Great fishing all winter long!

Trout Stocking Hotline

609-633-6765

Fall

- Fall Stocking begins October 11, 2022
- All large, two year old trout, measuring 14–16 inches
- 21,000 trout stocked
- 36 streams, lakes and ponds
- 1,000 rainbow trout breeders, averaging 20 inches
- Great fishing till next spring!

Trout Stocking Schedule — 2022

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's 2022 trout stocking schedule or go to **NJFishandWildlife.com/trinfo.htm**



Warmwater Fish Stocking List

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to view New Jersey's warmwater fish stocking list or go to **NJFishandWildlife.com/hacktown.htm#summaries**



FREE Fishing Days
— June 4 and Oct. 22, 2022 —
No License Needed!
(see page 31)

3rd Annual Blairstown Fishing Derby

May 14, 2022 10am-2pm Rain or Shine



FREE!!!
Registration Starts @9:30AM
First 50 Kids Registered Get a Free Fishing Rod!

Must be 16 or younger to get fishing rod

Registration is at Footbridge Park
2 Fishing Locations :
Footbridge Park & Blairstown Powersports
Food & refreshments will be available for purchase. Vendors will be in the park.
Over 500 Fish to be stocked!!
Prizes for BIGGEST FISH in each age group!

To be a sponsor or for more info:

KNOT JUST FLIES

61 State Route 94

Blairstown, NJ 07825

knotjustflies@gmail.com

Knotjustflies.com

908-362-3474

Skillful Angler Program

2022



Justin Lerner

Justin Lerner holding a beautiful Northern Pike caught while bank fishing the Passaic River.

The Skillful Angler Program is designed both to supplement the New Jersey Record Fish Program and to acknowledge that many anglers catch freshwater and marine fish that are not record size but are still worthy of recognition because the size and weight of the fish sufficiently tested the angler's skill. Open to resident and non-resident anglers. All fish must be caught in New Jersey waters using a hook and line during legally open seasons.

Saltwater species taken from a boat must have been caught from a boat that left from, and returned to, a New Jersey port during the same trip.

Anglers can now submit their application and photo(s) electronically! Program rules and steps to enter are found here NJFishandWildlife.com/skflang.htm. Anglers qualifying for a Skillful Angler award receive a certificate **along with a Skillful Angler patch** as a testament to their achievement.

The Program has three main divisions: **Adult** (for anglers age 16 and older), **Junior** (under age 16) and **Catch and Release** (based on length). A **clear, side-view photo that allows accurate species identification must be included with each application**. Additional good quality (and high resolution) photos with the angler are welcome and appreciated.


The Skillful Angler Program recognizes different levels of fishing expertise. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying size for the same species will receive a Specialist Certificate. An angler who submits five applications of qualifying fish of different species will receive a Master Certificate. Catch 10 or more qualifying fish within the year, and the angler will earn an Elite Angler Certificate.

For new anglers, the Program also recognizes your first fish caught *no matter the age of the angler*. Qualified anglers will receive a First Fish certificate. Three additional categories may bring out your competitive nature. Personalized certificates are also awarded for the Slam Series which includes:

- **Trout Slam**—catch one each qualifying rainbow, brook and brown trout
- **Bass Slam**—catch one each qualifying small and largemouth bass
- **Panfish Slam**—catch one each qualifying sunfish, crappie and yellow perch.

Each month, the leaders of each category and species will be posted on our Skillful Angler Leader Board webpage. At the end of the year, special recognition is given to anglers who catch the largest fish in each species category. The winner of each category is sent a special certificate recognizing his/her accomplishment along with a **winner's patch** as the best of New Jersey's Skillful Anglers.

Fish must be measured from the tip of the nose (with mouth closed) to the tip of the tail. For catch and release categories, the fish must be measured and photographed alongside a ruler. For Adult/Junior Division, fish must be weighed and measured by a fishing license agent, tackle shop or authorized Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologist.

Anglers must submit a photograph of the fish caught, alongside a ruler for clear identification and measurement verification. Be sure the ruler markings are legible. Please also include an attractive, well-composed, high-resolution (large file size) photo to be considered for printing in this Digest. **Smile!** All photos become the property of the NJDFW and may be used for promotional purposes. 

To apply, go to: NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/fwfisheries/skflangapp-fresh.pdf.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Adult Weight (lbs., oz.)	Junior Weight (lbs., oz.)	Catch & Release (inches)
Largemouth Bass	6	4	21
Smallmouth Bass	4	3	19
Striped Bass Hybrid	8	6	24
Striped Bass	30	25	40
Bowfin	6	4	25
Bullhead	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Carp	25	20	35
Channel Catfish	10	8	29
Crappie	2	1 lb., 8 oz.	14
Muskellunge	20	15	45
Tiger Muskie	15	10	42
Yellow Perch	1 lb., 8 oz.	1	13
White Perch	1.8	1.4	14
Chain Pickerel	4	3	24
Northern Pike	10	8	34
American Shad	7	5	24
Brook Trout	3	2	19
Brown Trout	8	5	25
Lake Trout	12	8	31
Rainbow Trout	5	3 lbs., 8 oz.	23
Salmon, Atlantic Landlocked	4	3	20
Sunfish	1	12 oz.	9
Walleye	6	4 lbs., 8 oz.	24

The New Jersey State Record Fish Program requires a separate application from this Skillful Angler Program and is based on weight alone. Scale certification documentation and a weighmaster's signature are necessary. Other rules apply. Visit Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com for a complete list of current state records.

New!

Email your Skillful Angler entry and photo from any device!

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Record Fish Program honors anglers who catch the largest of select species of freshwater and saltwater fish. Record size is based on weight alone; there are no line classes. Currently there are 31 freshwater species eligible for entry into the program.

Anglers are reminded that the objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought and routinely found in the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey.

Anglers should also be aware that several procedural changes are now in effect for the Record Fish Program. First, there are different applications for freshwater and saltwater species. Second,

for freshwater species, it is now mandatory that a freshwater biologist confirm the identification and weight of any potential record fish within three days of it being caught. Anglers must call Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries (north/central) 908-236-2118; (south) 609-259-6964, or the Hackettstown Hatchery at 908-852-3676 (Warren County) to make arrangements. Hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. These offices have a certified scale on site, so an entry can be weighed and identified. Depending on the time and location of your catch, you may elect to have the fish weighed on a local certified scale, but you must still have a freshwater biologist personally confirm the identification and weight at one

of the above offices. Please note that all scale certification requirements still apply, including a valid Certificate of Inspection/Test Report and current Registration Certificate issued by the county Office of Weights and Measures.

Please also include an attractive, well-composed, high-resolution (large file size) photo to be considered for printing in this *Digest*. **Smile!**

Entry deadline: Applications must now be submitted no later than one month after the date of catch. All other program rules still apply.

For a complete list of state record fish or to print an application with complete program rules, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com/recfish.htm. 🐟

New Jersey State Record Freshwater Sport Fish

Species	lbs.	oz.	Year	Angler	Where Caught
Bass, Largemouth	10	14	1980	Robert Eisele	Menantico Sand Wash Pond
Bass, Rock	1	5	1982	Eric Avogardo	Saddle River
Bass, Smallmouth	7	2	1990	Carol Marciniak	Round Valley Reservoir
Bluegill	3	0	1990	Dom Santarelli	Farm Pond in Pennington
Bowfin	11	8.5	2017	Pierce Dopkin	Mantua Creek
Bullhead, Brown	4	8	1997	Gary Schmidt	Lake of Woods, Ft. Dix
Carp	47	0	1995	Billy Friedman	South Branch of Raritan River
Carp (Archery)	45	6	2014	Adam Faatz	Greenwood Lake
Carp, Grass	55	8	2011	Jack Demsey, Jr.	Curlis Lake
Carp, Grass (Archery)	76	11	2020	Daniel E. Sandorff	Delaware River
Catfish, Channel	33	3	1978	Howard Hudson	Lake Hopatcong
Catfish, White	14	4	2004	Timothy Jasko	Dallenbach Pond
Crappie, Black	4	8	1996	Andy Tintle	Pompton Lake
Crappie, White	3	11	2009	William Lewis	Mercer Lake
Eel, American	6	13	2005	David J. Payne	Round Valley Reservoir
Muskellunge	42	13	1997	Bob Neals	Monksville Reservoir
Muskie, Tiger	29	0	1990	Larry Migliarese	Delaware River
Perch, White**	3	1	1989	Edward Tango	Forest Hill Lake
Perch, Yellow	2	6	1989	Gene Engels	Holiday Lake
Perch, Yellow*	4	4	1865	Charles Abbott	Crosswicks Creek
Pickereel, Chain	9	3	1957	Frank McGovern	Lower Aetna Lake
Pickereel, Redfin	1	13	1982	Gerald Humphrey	Lake Assunpink
Pike, Northern	30	8.5	2009	John Viglione	Pompton Lake
Salmon (Landlocked)	8	10	2021	Joe Satkowski	Merrill Creek Reservoir
Shad, American	11	1	1984	Charles Mower	Delaware River
Striped Bass	51	0	2002	John Christian	Great Egg Harbor River
Striped Bass, Hybrid	16	4	1999	Bill Schmidt	Culvers Lake
Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	1	8	1987	Daryl Donalson	Farm Pond in Burlington County
Trout, Brook	7	3	1995	Andrew DuJack	Rockaway River
Trout, Brown	21	6	1995	Lenny Saccente	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Lake	32	8	2002	Greg Young	Round Valley Reservoir
Trout, Rainbow	13	0	1988	Gene Rutkoski	Lake Hopatcong
Trout, Sea Run Brown	— Vacant — (Minimum Weight 5 lbs.)				
Walleye	13	9	1993	George Fundell	Delaware River

* Denotes historical record

** Denotes fish has been certified by the IGFA as a world record



Ron DeGraff

On September 30, 2021, Joe Satkowski of Hampton broke the existing record for Landlocked Salmon while fishing Merrill Creek Reservoir using a homemade jig. This new state record Landlocked Salmon weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz., eclipsing by 5 ounces the previous 2018 record from Lake Aeroflex. Satkowski's fish measured 26 inches long with a 16.25 inch girth.

Volunteers Needed To Get Kids Hooked On Fishing!

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife needs volunteers at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center to teach youths about fishing.

Teaching experience is helpful—but not required—to become a fishing education instructor. However, enthusiasm, energy and the desire to teach children proper fishing techniques and ethics is a must!

Fishing classes run from April through October. Interested applicants must become a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer. Download a WCC application from our website at: NJFishandWildlife.com/wcchome.htm.

Share the pleasures of fishing and pass on a conservation ethic to the next generation. Become a fishing education instructor today!

For more information on Fish and Wildlife's fishing education programs, call Jessica Griglak at 908-637-4125 ext. 115, or e-mail Jessica.Griglak@dep.nj.gov.



A frozen Morris County pond gave up this bluegill sunfish to smiling 9-year-old Sierra.

Beat The Fall Rush! Take Your Hunter Education Class This Spring!

Hunter Education has GONE ONLINE!

You're just 5 steps away from hunting in NJ

1. Complete the online course at HunterCourse.com.
2. Pass the test and print your voucher
3. Register for a live fire session
4. Attend a live fire session.
5. BUY YOUR LICENSE!

NOTE: The New Jersey Study Guide/Workbook will NOT be accepted.

For more information, visit NJFishandWildlife.com/hunted.htm.

Questions, email NJHunterEd@dep.nj.gov or call the Hunter Education office at 856-629-0552.

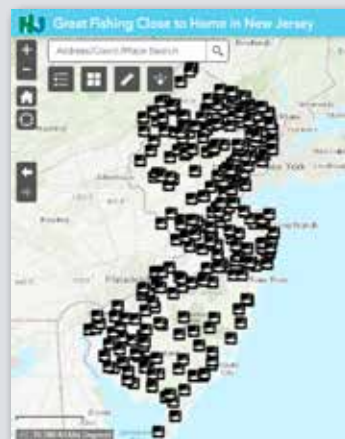


Great Fishing Close to Home App

Looking for a place to fish in the Garden State?

The *Great Fishing Close to Home* app will help you select from more than 290 lakes, ponds and reservoirs.

Looking to target a particular species? Use the app's search feature to identify opportunities for various species. For each waterbody, information includes location, size, primary game fish species present, ownership, any special permit requirements, if outboard motors are permitted along with other amenities such as a boat ramp, swimming area, picnic area and camping. You are only a few clicks away from *Great Fishing Close to Home*. Visit NJFishandWildlife.com.



“Hook a Winner” Program

The Division of Fish and Wildlife will be jaw-tagging more than 1,000 rainbow trout for release into New Jersey waters. These tagged trout will be stocked preseason to be available for opening day fishing. If you are a lucky angler who lands one of these fish, send your name, address, fish tag number (do **not** send the actual tag) and location of catch to:

Pequest Trout Hatchery
605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07863
Attn: Hook a Winner Program

In recognition of your catch, a certificate and award patch will be mailed.

For the **third time**, 10-year-old Johnny Gramaglia caught a tagged, Hook-A-Winner rainbow trout, earning him a classy certificate and patch to proudly add to his collection!



Sedge Island Programs – Summer 2022

Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is offering a variety of programs in the summer of 2022 for students, adults and families. Come connect with the beauty of Barnegat Bay while learning about salt marsh ecology through fishing, clamming, and discovering what's edible in the bay!

Visit NJFishandWildlife.com/sedge_summer.htm for details, date and cost or contact Karen Byrne at Karen.Byrne@dep.nj.gov.



New Anglers ✓ Checklist

Welcome to Fishing! To Get Started...

A fishing license is required for residents ages 16 through 69 years and for non-residents 16 years and older. Fishing for trout also requires a Trout Stamp. Purchase your license and stamp online at <https://nj.aspirafocus.com/internetsales> or at tackle shops and sporting goods stores statewide. If you never purchased a fishing license, or have not since 2011, you are eligible to save almost 50% of the fee when you and another qualified individual purchase a “Buddy License” at the same time. Both anglers receive the discount! See page 10 for details.

New Anglers' Fishing Gear Checklist

Gather this essential gear, then consider adding the recommended accessories to complete your new angler package. Everything can be found at a local tackle shop or sporting goods store.

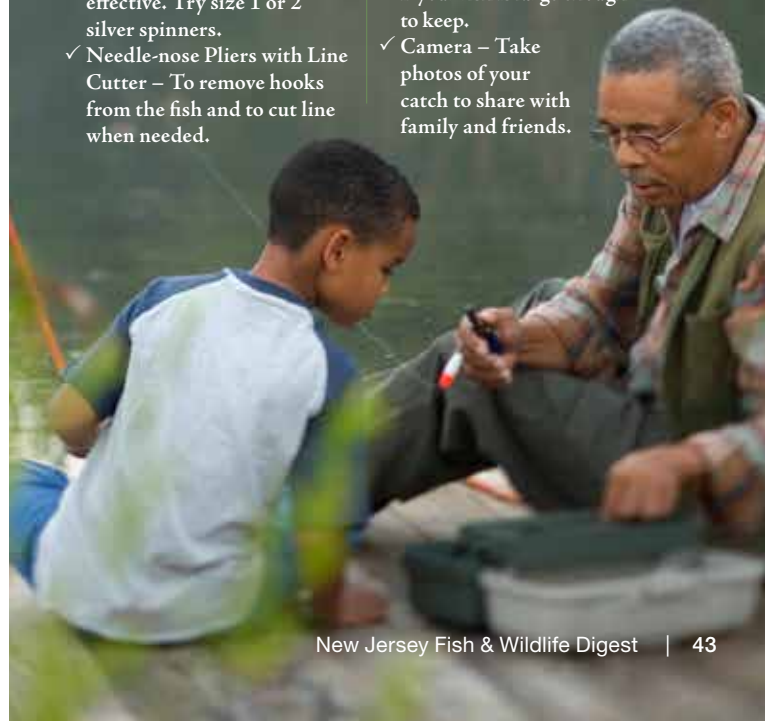
Essential Gear

- ✓ NJ Fishing License
- ✓ Rod and Reel – A 6 to 7 foot-long spinning rod and reel with 8 lb. test line (monofilament).
- ✓ Hooks, Bobbers and Split Shot – Size 6 bait holder hooks (1 pkg.), 3 or 4 bobbers and a package of split shots.
- ✓ Bait – Nightcrawlers or earthworms (great choice, readily available, catch nearly everything) or try live minnows or shiners.
- ✓ Lures – Artificial lures can replace bait and be just as effective. Try size 1 or 2 silver spinners.
- ✓ Needle-nose Pliers with Line Cutter – To remove hooks from the fish and to cut line when needed.

- ✓ NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest – Contains images for commonly caught fish plus fishing regulations.

Recommended Accessories

- ✓ Polarized Sunglasses – Protect your eyes and reduce glare off the water.
- ✓ Hat and Sunscreen
- ✓ Net – Don't let the big one get away. Use a net to help land your catch and to protect fish that will be released.
- ✓ Tape Measure – To determine if your fish is large enough to keep.
- ✓ Camera – Take photos of your catch to share with family and friends.



HOW WILDLIFE IS THRIVING BECAUSE OF GUNS & HUNTING

HOW IT WORKS

- Hunters and target shooters purchase guns and ammunition.
- Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on guns and ammunition.
- Revenue from these excise taxes is distributed to state wildlife agencies.
- State wildlife agencies use these funds to purchase land for wildlife habitat and to manage wildlife populations.
- In turn, millions of acres of important habitat have been set aside to help ensure future wildlife abundance.

This System Has Provided

MORE THAN \$12.5 Billion

For Conservation So Far

Where the Money Goes

Buy, develop, maintain and operate wildlife management areas

Research projects focused on wildlife conservation

Hunter safety and education programs

Construction and maintenance of public target shooting ranges

Quick History

Early 1900s

As many wildlife species are dwindling in numbers or disappearing, firearms industry steps forward and asks Congress to redirect excise tax on sale of guns and ammo to help fund wildlife conservation.

1937

Congress passes and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act into law.

1938 to today:

Revenue from this act has purchased millions of acres of prime habitat that is maintained by state wildlife agencies. These lands, where game and non-game species flourish, are purchased with sportsmen's dollars but used by all Americans.

Since the late 1930s, hunters, target shooters and the firearms industry have been the nation's **LARGEST** contributors to **conservation**, paying for programs that benefit America's wildlife and all who love the outdoors.

THEN & NOW

White Tailed Deer Population

1900 **500,000** → **32,000,000** TODAY

Ducks / Waterfowl Population

1901 **FEW** → **44,000,000** TODAY

Rocky Mountain Elk

1907 **41,000** → **1,000,000** TODAY

Wild Turkeys

1900 **100,000** → **7,000,000** TODAY

Pronghorn Antelope

50 YEARS AGO **12,000** → **1,100,000** TODAY

OTHER WAYS SPORTSMEN CONTRIBUTE

Excise taxes combined with revenue from hunting and fishing license sales fund the majority of state wildlife agency budgets.

\$81 Million
CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY

Duck stamp proceeds are used by the government to buy or lease wetland habitat for ducks, geese and hundreds of non-game birds and animals.

SOME HEROES OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION MODEL IN THE WORLD ARE:



Theodore Roosevelt



Aldo Leopold



Key Pittman



Willis Robertson



THE FIREARMS INDUSTRY TRADE ASSOCIATION

NSSF.ORG



New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Digest

Internet Address	NJFishandWildlife.com
General Information	609-292-2965
DEP ACTION LINE—24 HOURS	877-927-6337 — 877-WARN-DEP
Automated Harvest Report System	855-448-6865 — 855-1-HUNT-NJ
Commercial Preserves and Semi-Wild Preserves	609-984-6213
Endangered and Nongame Species	908-638-4127
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits	609-984-6213
Falconry Permits	908-735-8793
Field Trial Permits	609-259-2132
Freshwater Fisheries	
Lebanon Field Office (North)	
P.O. Box 394, 1255 County Rt. 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833	908-236-2118
Central Regional Office	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	609-223-6076
Southern Region Office	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville	856-629-4950
Horseback Riding Group Permits	609-259-2132
Hunter Education	877-248-6865 — 877-2-HUNT-NJ
Hunting, Fishing and Duplicate Licenses	609-292-2965
Hunting and Trapping Permit Hotline	609-292-9192
License Sales	888-773-8450
Operation Game Thief	855-OGT-TIPS
Outstanding Deer Program	908-637-4125
Pheasant and Quail Stocking	609-984-0547
Trout Stocking Hotline	609-633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps	908-735-7040
Wildlife Control	908-735-8793
Wildlife Education	908-637-4125
Wildlife Management Areas	609-984-0547
Trenton Office	
Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420	
Land Management	609-984-0547
Marine Fisheries	609-748-2020
Shellfisheries	609-748-2040
Wildlife Management	609-292-6685
Northern Region Office	
26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827	
Wildlife Management	908-735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species	908-638-4127
Hunter Education	908-637-4125 x 123
Wildlife Control	908-735-8793
Land Management	973-383-0918
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties)	908-735-8240
Central Region Office	
1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	
Freshwater Fisheries	609-223-6076
Land Management	609-259-6969
Wildlife Control	908-735-8793
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	609-259-2120
Southern Region Office	
220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081	
Freshwater Fisheries	856-629-4950
Hunter Education	856-629-0552
Land Management	856-629-5006
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties)	856-629-0555
Wildlife Control	908-735-8793
Pequest Natural Resource Education Center	908-637-4125
605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863	
For questions concerning state stocking programs or comments call 908-236-2118	
Nacote Creek Research Station	
P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241	
Marine Fisheries	609-748-2020
Marine Fisheries "Listen Only" regulation information line	609-292-2083
Shellfisheries	609-748-2040
Marine Education	609-748-4347
Marine Law Enforcement	609-748-2050
Delaware Bay Office	
1672 E. Buckshtum Rd. Millville, NJ 08332	856-785-0730

**New Jersey is Hooked
on Fishing, Not on Drugs**

The Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs program will:

- Teach kids fishing and create opportunities to expose them to aquatic ecology, freshwater and marine careers
- Build self-esteem and confidence
- Develop problem-solving skills about their local environment
- Nurture outdoor recreation skills to avoid the pitfalls of drug and alcohol use



njfishandwildlife.com

For information e-mail
hofnod@dep.nj.gov.

Visit us on the web at
NJFishandWildlife.com/hofnodnj.htm.

Shhhhh. No wake zone.



Protect your baby (and their toys) with coverage for fishing gear and personal property too.

1-800-PROGRESSIVE / [PROGRESSIVE.COM](https://www.progressive.com)

PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. & affiliates. Additional charge may apply. Prices vary based on how you buy.